16 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

U.S. Proposals, Washington Talks -- The Israeli and U.S. positions are now closer and the United States has submitted new suggestions and ideas for an arrangement in Lebanon, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio after his final meeting in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Asked whether he plans to urge the Israeli Cabinet to adopt the U.S. suggestions, Shamir said that he is still undecided and that Israeli experts must first examine the ideas to see to what extent they satisfy Israel's security demands. According to the radio, the United States is proposing the establishment of a special Lebanese unit trained and equipped by the United States. Israel would participate in joint unarmed supervision teams in the border zone and in a joint military committee.

The Lebanese message, which former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam will deliver to President Reagan on 16 March, requests the President to exert more efforts and to increase the number of U.S. troops in the multinational force, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Interviewed by the radio, Salam said the message conveys friendship and appreciation and seeks cooperation with the Americans through all officials including the President. He said the Americans have displayed greater understanding of the Lebanese situation than before.

A Lebanese spokesman in Beirut announced that the tripartite negotiations will continue in Netanya on 17 March as scheduled, according to Beirut radio.

Security Situation -- Three U.S. marines were injured in a handgrenade attack near Beirut airport, Jerusalem radio reported on 16 March citing a Marine spokesman. IDF radio subsequently announced that the condition of the injured men is not serious. Meanwhile, a Lebanese internal security forces spokesman cited by Beirut radio announced that one U.S. marine was wounded by gunfire in the same area. Five Italian soldiers were wounded the previous night when their patrol was ambushed in the neighborhood, the radio said. In separate developments, three people were killed in clashes between communists and Islamic fundamentalists in Tripoli and a number of Christians were wounded by gunmen in 'Alayh, according to reports by the Voice of Lebanon and Jerusalem radio.

Tension increased in the Al-Biqa' valley following further exchanges of fire between Syrian and Israeli forces on 14-15 March, Beirut radio reported. The Syrians have deployed more tanks along the contact lines, the radio said.

Israel

Levi Appointment -- The Cabinet unanimously approved the appointment of Major General Moshe Levi as the next IDF chief of staff, IDF radio announced citing Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Arens on Settlements, King Husayn, Syria -- Defense Minister Arens declared that there "is no reason to put a freeze on settlement in Judaea and Samaria merely to enable King Husayn of Jordan to enter the peace negotiations," THE JERUSALEM POST noted citing Arens' remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He told the committee that Israel objected "in principle to the sort of precondition for negotiation" which a freeze would represent, but added that "at the same time Israel called upon Husayn to join the peace process." According to an earlier IDF Radio report, Arens told the Knesset that Israel does not want a war with Syria and is ready for negotiations any time and any place. He said the Syrians are liable to think they can "drag

the Soviets into a flareup" in the region following the deployment of SAM-5's in Syria and declared that if it becomes necessary "we will be able to cope with those systems as well."

Trade Talks with Egypt -- Israeli and Egyptian officials held talks on how to improve bilateral trade relations although both sides declined to say whether progress has been made, according to Jerusalem radio. An Israeli spokesman said the two sides were working toward overcoming the difficulties facing bilateral trade during the past nine months, the radio added.

Egypt

Arab Relations -- The exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and "some Arab states" will be announced in April and the first exchange of ambassadors will be with Iraq and Morocco, an Egyptian official source told the London daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

Defense Minister on Maneuvers -- Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah affirmed that Egypt does not intend to form a rapid deployment force, MENA reported citing Abu Ghazalah's remarks to reporters attending maneuvers staged by Egypt's 2d and 3d Field Armies. The defense minister denied any connection between the maneuvers and recent developments on the Libyan-Sudanese border. He said the armed forces are being trained to defend Egypt at all times and also "to defend Sudan because Sudan and Egypt represent a strategic depth for each other." Abu Ghazalah also denied that there is a plan for staging joint exercises with any foreign state in the near future. However, he asserted that Egypt is prepared to stage "any kind of military exercise with any friendly state should such a state make a request."

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom adheres to its energy policy because "it keeps one eye on the interests of itself and its people and one eye on the interests of others," according to a Riyadh radio commentary on the new OPEC agreement. The radio stressed that the agreement consolidates the responsibilities of the OPEC members in the world economy.

Libya

President Reagan's decision forbidding Libyan students in the United States to continue their studies in the areas of aeronautics and atomic science is a "terrorist measure" designed to remove Libyan students from the United States, according to a JANA commentary broadcast by Tripoli radio. The JANA political editor declared that the U.S. Administration "emerges as vicously hostile to man's right to learn" and expresses a "rancorous attitude" toward a people struggling to achieve progress and development for their country.

PLO Affairs

During "extensive talks" between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Morocco's King Hassan II both sides agreed that the seven-member Arab committee will hold an "assessment meeting" on 27 and 28 March in Fes and that an extraordinary meeting of the Jerusalem Committee will be held simultaneously at "'Arafat's request," KUNA reported citing a PLO official. 'Arafat subsequently arrived in Tunis where he received the Soviet ambassador, who delivered a message from the Soviet leadership on the latest international and Middle East developments, according to Tunis radio.

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'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM 'SOVIET LEADERSHIP'

LD160323 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, received at his headquarters in Tunis tonight the Soviet ambassador who delivered a message from the Soviet leadership about the latest developments in the international arena in general and the Middle East in particular.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis this morning from Morocco where he conferred with King Hasan II.

AL-KHALIDI TO REPRESENT PLO ON ARAB COMMITTEE

JN151652 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] A responsible Palestinian information source has stated that Dr Walid al-Khalidi, the official in charge of the Palestinian research center in Beirut, will represent the PLO on the seven-member Arab committee during its visit to London on Friday.

The source added that the seven-member Arab committee will convene 27 March to evaluate its work. The Jerusalem Committee, chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, will convene during the same period at the request of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to discuss the recent Zionist aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque.

ARAB TIMES: PLO DENIES INTERFERENCE IN EGYPT

GF111104 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10-11 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The PLO has not been trying to meddle in Egyptian internal affairs, but Egypt has been interfering in Palestinian issues, according to a PLO official. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas told the Kuwait daily AL-ANBA' that a statement by the Palestine National Council, which criticised Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, was not interference in the country's internal affairs.

"If we want to talk about interference, then Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel could be interpreted as an interference in Palestinian affairs," Mr 'Abbas said. His statement was the first Palestinian reaction to Egyptian President Mubarak's criticism of the PLO early this week. Mr Mubarak accused the organisation's leaders of trying to drive a wedge between the Egyptian Government and its people.

PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH DISCUSSES PNC MEETING

LD112350 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] During the visit to Czechoslovakia by George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, Milos (Lendl) interviewed him. To a question concerning the most important results of the recent 16th Session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, George Habash replied:

[Begin Habash recording in Arabic fading into Czech translation] The aim of the Israeli aggression in June last year was, among other things, the liquidation of the Palestine revolution. The principled stance of the resistance movement and the heroic defense of Beirut showed, however, that the resistance movement was in fact stronger than at any time previously. (?The core) of the PLO remained undefeated in Beirut, having received even greater popular support than could ever have been expected. The resistance movement has gained the greatest support hitherto in the international political arena as well as from the viewpoint of world public opinion. This fact has caused considerable nervousness in the imperialist camp. This is why they are continuing in their effort to destroy the Palestinian revolution by other means, when they failed by military means.

After the resistance in Beirut we have had to face a whole series of explosions of political bombs, including the Reagan plan, conjectures about our relationship with Jordan, relations with the regime in Egypt. All these attempts have the sole aim: to move the Palestine resistance movement into positons that would be in line with American interests in the Middle East. From this viewpoint some concern or maybe hopes that the Palestinian resistance movement would be split on the question of future strategy were quite appropriate. In this situation the PNC meeting in Algiers said a resolute "no" to all who thought that something like this might happen and that the resistance movement might end in the imperalist embrace. All segments of the Palestinian resistance movement fundamentally rejected in Algiers the Reagan plan and all its variations, which envisage the establishment of relations with the imperialist circles.

At the 16th Session of the PNC the unity of the Palestine revolution was confirmed clearly and bindingly, despite certain differences of view among individual segments, which are of course quite understandable in view of the fact that the PLO embaraces the various political currents of Palestinian society. The PNC of course, did not reject the Reagan plan alone, for it also clearly determined our ties of alliance in the Arab world andaiso our international relations and obligations toward the national liberation movements throughout the world. The Palestinian revolution is merely one part of the world revolutionary and liberation process. We consider ourselves to be among the members of the camp of peace and socialism. [end recording]

To a question on the project to form a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and the Kingdom of Jordan he replied:

[Begin Habash recording in Arabic fading into Czech translation] The conclusions of the session of the Palestine National Council clearly state that special relations between the PLO and the regime in Jordan are being (?formed). These relations proceed from the realistic prerequisite that contacts have to be maintained with that regime since many Palestinians live on the territory of Jordan. The reactionary circles however are trying to explain our contacts with Amman as some sort of shift in our principles. They would like the PLO to accept the Reagan plan, which presupposes the solution of the Palestinian issue through the Jordan intermediary, while the West Bank of Jordan would gain autonomy within the framework of this state. In the sensitive matter the PNC took a great deal of care to define our stands in this matter. The conclusions of the session state that we have special relations with Jordan, but they must not develop to the detriment of the formation of an independent Palestinian state. If I am not mistaken, they say that any relationship in the future between the PLO and Jordan must be based on mutual respect for sovereignty. [end recording]

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF

PM141205 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Mar 83 pp 30, 31

[Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf interviewed by 'Abd al-Latif al-Furati in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Did the PNC through the resolutions it adopted at its recent conference in Algiers, give the Palestinian leadership greater flexibility of movement in the coming stage?

[Answer] The recent PNC session was of special significance both because it did actually meet and because of the outcome of its meetings. This session was held after much talk about divisions in the Palestinian arena and the PNC results were positive and practical. The wagering on Palestinian divisions proved to be wrong. There was a great desire by everybody to emerge with practical results and this was what actually happened. But it must be said that so far nothing has been proposed to us; our problem is difficult and requires prolonged struggle. We are not only facing what is known as "the Zionist Israeli entity" but also a superpower that supports and stands behind that entity: the United States. In my view the PNC came out with very positive results which, to the ill-informed, might appear to be a rejection. In fact they are based on great realism and they provide for the Palestinian problem a flexibility in the coming stage which previous resolutions did not give it.

[Question] But different interpretations and explanations could be given to the PNC resolutions. How can this be dealt with?

[Answer] I am interested in the essential issues on which there has been agreement. We have come to an agreement on issues about which I can go so far as to say that they are not written and cannot be read in the declared resolutions. Let us take the Reagan plan, for example. This could have been rejected and the matter would have been closed, but what happened was that we considered the proposals as not satisfying the Palestinian people's national rights and denying the right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of a Palestinian state. It also denies the PLO role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the proposals are not a suitable basis for a just solution.

I would like to say that the language of the PNC and the Palestinian leadership is not the language of the past. If we reject, our rejection must be explained. The citizens of the occupied territories and all those who support our cause must understand why we do not accept the Reagan plan as it is. We believe that it is not good to close doors. The question of dealing with the enemy front and of contacts with the Jewish progressive and democratic forces was also dealt with in the same manner. This issue was dealt with objectively and from the standpoint of people looking for a way to penetrate this closed society, which is fanatically against everything that is Arab or Palestinian, and to open a breach. All this was not written down; it was flexibility that prevailed at the PNC meetings.

With regard to Egypt, for example, we had to ask ourselves: Shall we continue boycotting Egypt and crossing it off the list because of the Camp David accords and so give Israel a free hand there? Or shall we open a breach or a window to it for ourselves in a manner that will not be contrary to our principles and options but rather aim at returning Egypt to the Arab world? There were no fundamental differences during the PNC meetings. Therefore, there cannot possibly be different interpretations and explanations of the stand adopted toward the vital problems and issues. It must be said that we are not an organization concerned with preserving the Palestinian heritage but a liberation organization.

Of course, it must be said that there are certain Arab regimes that feel it in their interest to attract to themselves a Palestinian resistance group that will speak on their behalf and defend them. But I hope that the PNC lesson was sufficient in that the great majority have confirmed during the meeting that the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking is the most important matter.

[Question] Do you believe that the PNC has finally endorsed the presidential system within the PLO and given Yasir 'Arafat wider powers than before?

[Answer] All the PLO Executive Committee members were elected by the PNC and then the committee elected Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as its chairman, as has been done in the past. The presidential system has actually been in existence since the days of the late Ahmad ash-Shuqayri, but the Fatah movement struggled to abolish it. We cannot rule the Palestinian people with a stick and with presidential laws; the ony way is democratic dialogue. I admire a saying which Abu 'Ammar keeps repeating: "I am not leading a flock of sheep." But this does not prevent Abu 'Ammar, by virtue of his position and his past, from pressing initiatives on the council, such as the confederative formula with Jordan, or from moving with flexibility within the framework of the principles agreed upon in the PNC.

[Question] How, in your opinion, can the U.S. attitude to the Palestinian problem be developed?

[Answer] Recently I asked some American journalists: Why do U.S. Administrations adopt an intransigent stand toward our people and their legitimate right? I would like to believe one day that the U.S. Administrations are not against our people. But the reality is evident. Let us ask: How was the Reagan plan born? I was the last to leave Beirut and I was on board the ship when Reagan announced the details of his plan and so it appeared as if the plan was to reward us after our steadfastness in Beirut. Of course, Reagan did not want us to stand fast and the plan was some kind of consolation for us. But no one who reads the plan will find anything new in it. What does accepting the Reagan plan mean? It means that after these long years of struggle the United States is actually proposing to us autonomy without sovereignty on the Palestinian territory. If we in the PLO are bad people then give the state to the Palestinians and let us see what will happen, for maybe we are actually bad. There are Palestinians who can manage the state and secure self-determination. During the drafting of the resolutions at the recent PNC session we tried to find an expression that did not close the door and so preclude U.S. involvement in the solution. We realize the importance of the United States in this problem.

[Question] What about the unified peace plan which the Fes summit adopted and the PNC endorsed?

[Answer] The Fes plan is our Arab plan. It provides the minimum acceptable to the Palestinian people. I can see an integration between the Fes plan and Brezhnev's initiative. If the Americans were to make changes in the text of the Reagan plan in the direction of the Fes plan, that would mean that many things would change and there would be a ready and agreed upon solution.

[Question] What about Palestinian recognition of Israel?

[Answer] Those who talk about recognition are practicing a kind of blackmail. To ask me to stand up and declare publicly that I recognize Israel is blackmail. Besides, whose right am I being asked to recognize, and which Israel am I recognizing? Is it the Israel of partition, the de facto Israel before 1967, or the de facto Israel after 1967?

I would challenge anybody to show me the borders of Israel or a map on which Israel shows its borders. Recognition of any state is a right of sovereignty. I would like to disclose something important here. We rebuked President as-Sadat and asked him to change one clause in the Camp David accords -- the clause that deals with exchange of diplomatic representation with Israel. We asked him: Why are you chaining yourself in this manner?

[Question] What is the change that is requested from the United States and would be acceptable to the Palestinians?

[Answer] We ask for self-determination, the rights to establish an independent Palestinian state, and recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. We could be told that the Palestinian leadership was not elected by the Palestinian people. I would say: Show us an elected Palestinian body that rejects the present Palestinian leadership.

[Question] What about the future of Palestinian-Syrian relations? Is it true that all the Palestinian fighters are to be concentrated in Syria?

[Answer] We believe in the need for special relations with Syria and seek to realize this while preserving our dignity. Algiers and Aden are using their good offices to bridge the gap between the Syrian and Palestinian views, with regard to the second part of the question I would say that the greater part of the Palestinian forces are in Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon. The Palestinian fighters distributed among the Arab states do not represent the greater part of our forces. The fighters can be concentrated in one of two points, whether or not our relations with Syria improve.

[Question] What are the priorities of the coming stage of Palestinian action?

[Answer] We must seek to establish a Palestinian state. When this state is established it will expand neither eastward nor westward. We only want to live in peace. Action is open on all fronts. The PLO Executive Committee will meet after the nonaligned summit, between 15 and 20 March, to draw up a program of action at the next stage. The Palestinian delegation carries to the nonaligned summit proposals calling for the adoption of the Fes summit resolutions. We will ask for the setting up a nonaligned committee, similar to the Arab seven-man committee, that would be an extension of the latter and would work to support the Palestinian cause. We will also ask for a meeting of the Arab seven-man committee to evaluate the results of its work and call either for a seven-state Arab summit or a full summit to study the results and lay down plans for future moves. But it must be said that the Arabs should be ready for some military developments. I am afraid that Israel will commit an aggression against Syria and Jordan that could lead to the loss of Damascus and Amman. After the invasion of Lebanon, Israel could find the road open to it and so carry out similar operations against Syria and Jordan with the aim of "normalizing" its relations with the Arab countries.

[Question] Is the military option still likely for the Palestinians?

[Answer] That option is still likely, although I do not consider it a great possibility. We shall continue to fight until the world gives us a state.

BAHRAIN

INTERIOR OFFICIAL ON FOREIGN LABOR, ENTRY VISAS

GF141706 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Mar 83 p 3

[Report on interview with Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini assistant Interior Ministry under secretary for immigration and passports affairs to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ -- place, date not given]

[Excerpts] The newspaper asked: There is a nagging complaint of the threat of foreign labor, particularly Asian labor. Are there any measures being taken by the immigration and passport departments to regulate the flow of labor into the country? Is it true that there are some measures to encourage the flow of this labor while there are stringent measures against the entry of Arab labor?

The assistant Interior Ministry under secretary answered this question many ways, first saying that foreign labor is the concern of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry because it is the party that grants work permits. Shaykh 'Ali affirmed that the second basis is that the immigration and passports department acts in view of this condition alone and that it is not biased to any nationality or harsh toward other nationalities. He said that the department treats all nationals equally.

Shaykh 'Ali said as long as foreign laborers have work permits, the only reservation the department has is that of security with all its political and criminal facets and aspects. That is why the department does not have stringent measures toward any nationality.

The minister was asked: There is much talk about the 72-hour visa and that there are limitations on it which made its issuance possible in very few cases. How true is this?

Shaykh 'Ali said frankly that there are no limitations on the issuance of the 72-hour visa for Bahrain so long as this visa is intended for visits or to carry out some missions, particularly when foreign communities invite some relatives to visit them and there is a need to encourage tourists to visit Bahrain. A country of such social and economic characteristics must have a flexible and wise system of visas within some security limitations to know the persons visiting the country and to be sure that the person visiting the country is not a security risk. Shaykh 'Ali added: That is why we want those who try to obtain 72-hour visas to grant us enough time and not be in a hurry so we have enough time to check on the person intending to visit Bahrain.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON 'U.S. DECISION'

LD150953 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0801 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Shamil Khayri dispatch from London]

[Text] London, 15 March -- The Kuwaiti oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has stated that the United States decision banning Kuwait from prospecting for oil and gas in federal lands was taken because there are no concessions for American companies to prospect for oil in Kuwait.

In an interview with KUNA, Shaykh as-Sabah said that Kuwait was one of a number of countries not permitted to carry out investments in American federal territory and that the recent American decision to bar Kuwait from making investments of leasing federal lands "was not something new and cannot be considered as directed against Kuwait."

He said that right from the start, we were not permitted to invest in federal land so we cannot say that we "have been banned from doing so." The decision stems from an old American law that was applied prior the thirties to countries which do not grant American companies concessions within their territory and Kuwait is such a country.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah was commenting on the decision announced last Thursday by the U.S. secretary of the interior, James Watt, banning Kuwait "from leasing federal government land in the United States for the purpose of prospecting for oil and gas."

The Kuwaiti oil minister said "We have recently requested the United States to grant us an exemption from this law to facilitate some administrative operations by the Santa Fe International Company -- owned by the Kuwaiti oil establishment -- regarding investment in federal lands." He pointed out that the Kuwaiti request "was rejected by the U.S. Government" affirming that contacts were, however, continuing between the two governments in this regard.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah pointed out that the dispute between the United States and Kuwait over this decision "was minor and purely legal and does not merit all this clamor about it."

He added that there are 4 types of lands or territories where investment is permitted in the United States. They are: waters of continental shelves, privately and company-owned land, and land owned by the various states.

Shaykh as-Sabah said that these three types of land were "land in which all countries including Kuwait are permitted to invest." The fourth type consists of federal land and this type is not available for leasing or investment except in the case of countries which do not discriminate against U.S. companies."

He said that the United States "considered the granting of concessions to Japanese oil companies and the absence of any concessions to American companies as an act of discrimination against the American companies and it was on this basis that our request for exemption was rejected."

He added that the decision to bar Kuwait from investments on federal land "was not directed against Kuwait, because it was an American law that is applied to all countries where American companies are given concessions." [sentence as received]

MINISTER ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR GULF DEFENSE

LD121308 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] The deputy prime minister, foreign minister and information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, has said that serious efforts are continuing with the aim of halting the Iraq-Iran war and reaching a just solution to the conflict through international organizations, nonaligned countries, the Islamic Conference Organization or the United Nations. In an interview with AL-MANAR AL-ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, he said that Algeria is continuing to make sincere efforts to end this destructive war.

Answering a question on the U.S. decision to increase the size of the Rapid Deployment Force to 440,000 in order to defend the Gulf, he said that the Gulf states are responsible for the defense of the Gulf and that we do not agree to any foreign interference in our region. He said that any such interference would lead to counterinterference and make the situation worse, which is not in the interest of anyone.

He expects the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion force from Lebanon to take place only after extreme difficulty. Answering another question, he said that the reconstruction of Lebanon can begin only after the complete withdrawal of the invading forces from the country.

KUWAITI GREETINGS TO USSR ON RELATIONS ANNIVERSARY

LD131514 Kuwait KUNA in English 1259 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 13 (KUNA) -- On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of establishing relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union, Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah exchanged cables of congratulations with the foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Andrei Gromyko.

Shaykh Sabah expressed, in his cable, the greetings of the Kuwaiti Government and people to the Soviet Government and people and hailed the achievements which the two countries had made in developing bilateral relations based on mutual respect and amity.

Shaykh Sabah said in the cable that on this occasion "We reiterate our determination to continue the process of cooperation between our countries in various fields in the joint interests of our two friendly peoples."

Shaykh Sabah received a cable from Gromyko on the same occasion expressing greetings and confidence that the positive experience made in the years in which the Kuwaiti-Soviet relations were developed, based on equity and the respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, would participate in further enhancement of bilateral relations for the welfare of the Kuwaiti and Soviet peoples and for the interest of peace in the Middle East.

SAUDI ARABIA

CARTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH, MEETS WITH KING FAHD

LD151423 Riyadh SPA in English 1252 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, March 15, SPA -- King Fahd today received former American President Jimmy Carter who arrived here last night from Amman on a visit to the Kingdom as part of a Middle East tour. The royal audience was attended bn Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi al-Faysal.

In a press statement before leaving Amman, Mr Carter strongly criticised Israeli policy on settlement in occupied Arab land, describing it as a violation of the Camp David accords, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the Geneva conventions. He said the building of Israeli settlements also constituted an obstacle in the way of peace in the region.

The former president proposed a form of federation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Jordan as a settlement for the question of occupied territories.

Mr Carter also deplored the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Israel's use of American arms for the purpose.

On the other hand, Rashad ash-Sawwa, the Gaza mayor who was deported by the Israeli occupation authorities because of his nationalist stand, has called on the U.S. to shoulder its responsibilities towards Palestinian rights and stop supplying unlimited aid to Israel.

In a memorandum submitted to Mr Carter during his visit to occupied territories, Mr ash-Shawwa said the U.S. shouldered a historic responsibility for what happened in the Middle East because of its military and financial supplies to Israel. According to the newspaper AL-RIYADH, published here today, Mr ash-Shawwa also warned against actual annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the Israelis.

He said a quick solution to the current situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip lay in the establishment of a confederation with Jordan speedily with the details arranged later.

The paper quoted Mr ash-Shawwa as saying the former president was very frank, saying he sympathised with the Palestinians who had a right to a homeland.

Mr Carter also called on Palestinians and all Arabs to join in negotiations to clarify the situation to the American public opinion and thus exert pressure on the U.S. Congress, the mayor said.

RADIO VIEWS OPEC PRICE, PRODUCTION AGREEMENT

LD152256 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary presented by Ahmad Hariri]

[Text] After 12 days of intense talks, the OPEC member states reached an agreement on oil prices and production levels. The reduction of the price of a barrel of oil to $29 from $34 comes as a solution that is in harmony with the current conditions of the oil market. Should these conditions improve, the question of raising the price will be looked into.

As His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources said, OPEC will study the market's condition every 3 months, if there is no change in the non-OPEC oil producing countries' stance. It is common knowledge that some of these countries, such as Britain, are trying to create a price war by reducing their oil price, despite the fact that, as Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said, it is not in these countries' interests to start a price war. The new price will be applied retroactively, not to go beyond the first of last February. Nigeria is temporarily allowed to sell its oil at price that is $1 higher than the new official price.

The OPEC agreement consolidates the organization member states', particularly Saudi Arabia's, responsibilities in the world economy. As His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, said at the Cabinet session last night, the Kingdom supports, in heart and soul, the public's interest, which ensures and realizes the interests of OPEC members, the consumer countries, and the whole international community. The Kingdom adheres to its energy policy because it keeps one eye on the interests of itself and its people and one eye on the interests of others. Such a position [word indistinct] the common responsibility towards the interests of the international community, because anything that affects the economic framework of mankind will reflect, in whole or in (?part), on all the states of the human community.

BRIEFS

EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH QATAR -- An education agreement between Saudi Arabia and Qatar was signed in Riyadh today to organize educational, cultural, and scientific cooperation. The agreement was signed by Shaykh Hasan ibn 'Abdallah Al ash-Shaykh, Saudi minister of higher education, and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of education and youth welfare.

According to the agreement, the two parties will work to unite their general and technical education systems and achieve coordination in the curricula and books in order to achieve the desired coordination between the basic concepts and cultural and intellectual concepts of the youth. They will also unite their examination systems and adopt a unified policy for the recognition of diplomas. The agreement also includes an exchange of scholarships, and exchange of expertise and consultations, mutual visits among the specialists, and an exchange of books, publications, research and cultural, educational, and technical documents. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Mar 83 GF]

UAE

WAM REVIEWS 15 MARCH DAILIES ON OPEC ACCORD

GF151430 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0655 GMT 15 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (WAM) -- Today's UAE newspapers were at variance in their assessment of the agreement reached by OPEC in London yesterday on the reduction of prices, fixation of production ceilings, and redistribution of quotas among the OPEC member states. Despite the diversity between support and reservation, almost all these newspapers concurred that yesterday's agreement constitutes a basis for further accord and joint action among the OPEC member states in order to surmount the current crisis in the oil market.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD editorially said OPEC has achieved the first "negative success" in its history through reducing its production by a large rate of 15 percent of the price that had prevailed until 1 March. The newspaper added that despite the negativeness of price reduction, the agreement itself constitutes a positive step in light of the circumstances that threatened OPEC from within and almost led to a price war whose consequences no one could have borne.

The Dubavy newspaper AL-BAYAN said the result of the OPEC oil ministers' meeting that was held in London was inevitable and a phasic end to all circumstances and situations pertaining to the oil industry which affirmed the inevitability of such an event.

The newspaper AL-WAHDAH expressed pessimism over the OPEC ministers' agreement. It described that agreement as being a temporary solution. It added that if this solution or agreement lasts, it will not survive longer than 5 months anyway. This is due to the oil glut in the market on one hand, and the insistence of the industrialized countries on realizing their goal of destroying the Arab countries' oil power completely, on the other.

Referring to other alternatives, the newspaper AL-WAHDAH called for withdrawing Arab investments from Western banks -- investments from which no one benefits except the countries colluding against the Arabs. The paper said: "Withdrawing these investments will make the Arab communtiy productive instead of consumptive. It will change the Arab economy from a one-sided economy into a strong economy dependent upon agriculture, industry, and multifaceted activities. This would make oil an element that would help the process of growth to continue and not an element apt to destroy us before anyone else."

The Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ raised doubts that the new OPEC agreement will last long.

It said keeping up the agreement is governed by several factors. Among these factors is that the oil-consuming Western countries are manipulating the oil market by continuously reducing the demand for oil and by supplying the market with their oil reserves to cause a further slump in prices. The new $29 a barrel benchmark price set by OPEC is a compromise solution which is not inspired by the market situation because oil is now being sold on the spot market for $2 less than this newly-agreed price.

PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES LIBYAN MESSAGE

GF151840 Aden ANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Aden, 15 Mar (ANA) -- Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and defense minister, received a written message today from Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, on the recent developments on the Arab arena and on bolstering relations between the two fraternal armies and peoples.

The message was delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Munir at-Tahir.

DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR GDR 15 MARCH

GF151430 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and defense minister, left Aden for the GDR today heading a military delegation to begin a tour during which he will visit Cuba, Nicaragua, and Hungary, in response to the invitations he has received from his counterparts in these friendly countries.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Salih Muslih expressed his confidence that these visits will bolster the relations between the PDRY and these countries. The defense minister said that he will hold talks with these countries' defense ministers, pointing out that the talks will include the strengthening of bonds and exchange of expertise between the PDRY Armed Forces and those countries' armies.

The defense minister was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Wasi' Sallam, deputy interior minister, and a number of military leaders in the armed forces.

PDRY REPORTEDLY TO SEND ENVOY TO OMAN

GF150901 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Mar (QNA) -- The Kuwait newspaper AS-SIYASAH said today that the PDRY Government is expected to send an ambassador to Oman in the next few weeks to submit his credentials to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultant of Oman. This step will be taken in the course of rapprochement between the PDRY and Oman as a result of the efforts exerted by Kuwait and UAE.

MUBARAK BRIEFS NDP LEADERS ON POLITICAL ISSUES

NC151535 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) -- Leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning with members of the party's parliamentary groups and secretaries of the governorates and constituencies in the governorates of Al-Jizah, Al-Fayyum, Bani Suwayf, Al-Minya, Suhaj, Asyut, Qina, Aswan, the Red Sea, the New Valley, northern Sinai, southern Sinai, and Matruh.

The meeting was held at the central department for mobilization and statistics. It was attended by Prime Minister and NDP Secretary General Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, deputy prime ministers, ministers, NDP Secretariat General members and NDP specialized committees chairmen.

This meeting falls within the series of meetings which the president holds with the NDP leaderships to brief them on the dimensions of the current political situation at home and abroad.

Following the approximately 3 and 1/2 hour meeting, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said that President Mubarak opened the meeting by speaking about the Palestinian question. He reviewed the Palestine National Council's [PNC] resolutions in Algiers saying: The council's resolutions were indeed regrettable. They attacked Egypt and tried to put a wedge between the Egyptian people and the regime, which they chose of their own accord, and between the people and their armed forces. Despite this, I say that Yasir 'Arafat is the most moderate Palestinian leader.

The president then explained Egypt's role in the 1948, 1956, and 1973 wars and the sacrifices it made. His excellency expressed his regret to hear and read that there is an Egyptian abroad who attacks his homeland saying: I cannot imagine how an Egyptian can permit himself to harm his homeland or allow that his country be harmed in his presence. Egypt has its dignity, and its sons' dignity is part of its own dignity. No Egyptian must underrate his dignity and that of his country, people, society, sons, and ancestors. However, I still say that the overwhelming majority is well and that there is a minority which has no effect on the society.

President Mubarak then discussed the nonaligned summit. He reviewed the meetings which he held with the presidents and kings of the Arab, African, and Asian states. He also reviewed his meeting with King Husayn of Jordan which dealt with the dialogue which Jordan will initiate in participation with the Palestinians to act in the service of the cause.

The president said: I expected that as a result of the PNC meeting, there would be a serious and quick move to exploit the time element and opportunity and start the negotiations because the time factor is not in the interests of the Palestinians. Israel is building more settlements and the United States is on the threshhold of the October elections.

The president added: If the Palestinians and Jordan do not reach an agreement on starting the negotiations, the available opportunity would be missed entirely. He further said: I hope that the PLO leaders will appreciate the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza sector who are subjected to coercion and searches.

In the foreign policy sphere, President Mubarak said: There is work and efforts ahead of us, and let it be clear that peace is a strategic line which we are following by will of the people and which we seek to achieve with our will. We are seeking to develop in our country a better future for all segments of our people and to build a strong army to protect peace and the achievements we have made.

The president said that Egypt adheres to this course and to the two Camp David accords, which have resulted in the return of the land to Egypt and have regulated [nazzamat] relations between Egypt and Israel. They are also aimed at solving the Palestinian problem in all its dimensions.

His excellency said that Egypt's speech at the Nonaligned Summit Conference made it clear that Egypt rises above all outbiddings and differences and that it has raised ideas and policies to serve the Nonaligned Movement. The speech expressed Egypt's viewpoint and principles.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that the president also dealt with Libyan-Egyptian contacts from October 1981 until 1983. He also explained the dimensions of the Libyan delegation's abortive attempts to suspend Egypt's nonaligned membership, which was not approved by any of the nonaligned states, not even one of the Arab states. He said that Egypt has regained its true status, role and position in the international group and in the Nonaligned Movement.

The president then replied to the questions of those present on domestic policy. The president explained that our armed forces have played a big role in solving the people's problems and in promoting services. However, this will not be done at the expense of their ability and strength. The Engineering and Signal Corps are working on roads, tele-communications, and telephones. The military industries and finance organs had a role in the establishment of 250 bakeries in all parts of the republic -- which contributed to the solution of the bread problem. Our field combat forces get their training, and what they are doing does not affect them, their strength, training, development or use of modern technology.

Ash-Sharif added that President Mubarak also spoke about the next People's Assembly elections. He said: If we adopt the system of lists in the elections, the proportional [an-nisbiyah] list will be the suitable one.

Regarding the 5-year plan and the effect of the drop in oil prices on it and on the transfers of money by Egyptians abroad, the president asked the ministers of economy, planning, and investment to explain this subject.

The economy minister explained the effect of the drop in oil prices on foreign currency revenues and on the revenues of the general budget and on the transfers by Egyptian workers in oil countries. He pointed out the need for rationing consumption at home, because the average annual increase in consumption in Egypt is 11 percent while the average annual increase in production is 12 percent.

The president explained that a rationing in domestic consumption by an average of 1 percent would equal 40 million pounds.

The president then called for increasing production and exports of agricultural, industrial, and other commodities that will secure [foreign] currency for us.

The president said that an increase in exports can be achieved only by raising agricultural and industrial productivity and by having the state's investments plan transacted with the required currencies.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that the economy minister pointed out that a reduction in oil prices will not affect the revenues of the Suez Canal or the Egyptian workers in the Arab countries. However, it is clear, based on estimates, that a reduction in the price of oil will result in a reduction in revenues amounting to 245 million dollars this year and to 500 million dollars in 1983-1984. Therefore, caution must be exercised.

In response to a question on construction violations, the president said that he has asked the ministers concerned to study and prepare a draft law to close the offending construction loopholes in order to safeguard the citizens' lives -- a law that can deal with construction offenses.

As for the roads and railroad in southern Egypt, from Cairo to Aswan, the president asked the minister of transport and communications to give an account of the projects that have been implemented. The minister pointed out that, with regard to the Cairo-Aswan road, which is 1,200 kilometers long and which will cost about 80 million pounds, work is now going on to make it a dual highway and improve services on it. As far as the railroad is concerned, the rails and cars have been refurbished and new air-conditioned cars have been added, raising efficiency to 90 percent. Other new cars from France have recently been introduced and used on the Upper Egypt railroad. There are also projects to make the railroad secure.

The president said that there are many problems and that more capabilities are needed [to solve them]; that every sector in the state must play its role to ease the burden; and that when we see that there has been improvement and efforts are being made in the domains of roads, communications, agriculture, industry, electricity, sewers, water, and telephones, we must encourage those who have made the efforts and every official for the role he has played. Likewise, when there is negligence, we shall bring those responsible to account.

Safwat ash-Sharif concluded his statement by saying that the president pointed out that it is our destiny that we should encounter many problems all at once and after a period of wars and sufferings, but that since peace was established, we have embarked on development and have begun to tackle the problems of the society, the state, and the masses. He added that the government will honor all its obligations to deal with these problems.

The president also spoke about democracy in Egypt. He pointed out that the state is governed by institutions and the supremacy of the law. He said: We have embarked on democracy and freedom, and we are pursuing them. Any extraordinary measure that restricts them will be regarded as a setback, and I do not approve of this at all. We always hold consultations with the leaders of parties, and this practice entrenches and deepens the foundations of democracy.

SOURCE REPORTS ARAB RELATIONS TO RESUME IN APRIL

PM151115 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo: Ambassadors Will Begin To Return to Arab Capitals Next Month"]

[Text] Cairo -- An Egyptian official source stated on his return from New Delhi, where he accompanied President Husni Mubarak at the Nonaligned Summit Conference, that the Egyptian delegation's main achievement during the conference was the direct contact between President Mubarak and a number of Arab leaders. The discussions, he added, dealt with the question of Egypt's return to the Arab fold, and these leaders explained that they seriously wanted to restore diplomatic representation with Egypt while Egypt explained its general political position.

The source told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and some Arab states will be announced in April and that the first exchange of ambassadors will be between Egypt on the one hand and Iraq and Morocco on the other.

He added that Mubarak was fully satisfied with his talks there and that Egypt was preparing to send economic delegations to some Arab states to open commerical offices there. Some Arab states invited Egypt to open such offices to promote Egyptian products. Two joint fairs are expected to be organized in Baghdad and Jidda. It has also been decided to reopen the Egyptian commercial office in Amman.

According to Egyptian sources, economic and cultural relations are expected to be restored between Egypt and the Arab states as a prelude to the restoration of diplomatic relations. The sources say that Egypt has agreed in principle with certain Arab leaders on the method to be used for Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

FRENCH MINISTER JOBERT DISCUSSES ECONOMIC TIES

NC141353 Cairo MENA in English 1323 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 14 (MENA) -- Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Dr. Wajih Shindi discussed today with French Minister of Trade Michel Jobert bilateral economic ties.

They reviewed matters to be discussed by the joint Franco-Egyptian committee, due to convene here next week. The two ministers also studied the great prospects for stepping up French investments in Egypt and setting up joint firms in the development fields, giving priority to companies operating in the domain of export.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Mustafa as-Sa'id conferred today with the visiting French foreign trade minister on means of promoting bilateral economic and trade relations.

Discussions also dealt in particular with prospects of increasing Egyptian exports to the French market especially agricultural products and textiles.

The French minister had arrived here on Saturday on a week-long visit for talks with senior economic officials.

The volume of trade exchange between Egypt and France amounted to eight billion French francs in 1982.

Meets Ghali 14 Mar

NC142148 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this evening met with French Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Michel Jobert. During the meeting they reveiwed developments in the Middle East in light of the current efforts to solve the Lebanese problem and achieve a comprehensive peace in the area. They also discussed bilateral relations and means of strengthening them in various fields.

Conveys Greetings to Mubarak

NC150920 Cairo MENA in English 0904 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak met this morning at Al-'Urubah Palace with visiting French Minister of Foreign Trade Michel Jobert. Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id and French ambassador here Philippe Cuvillier attended the meeting. Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id said later that the French minister conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings of President Francois Mitterrand.

President Mubarak discussed with Jobert the various facets of economic cooperation between Egypt and France especially in the domain of bilateral trade and the feasibility of increasing Egyptian exports to France, Dr as-Sa'id added.

The French minister voiced his government's readiness to encourage the entry of these exports especially as regards the spinning and weaving industry and agricultural products, he said. The Egyptian official pointed out that the meeting also dealt with French exports to Egypt especially wheat and flour and the French Government's wish to step up these exports to Egypt. The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in the domains of nuclear energy and the underground metro, As-Sa'id added.

Jobert Leaves 15 Mar

NC152035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) -- French Minister [of State] for Foreign Trade Michel Jobert left Cairo for Paris this evening after a 3-day visit during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the ministers of international investments, economy, and electricity and the minister of state for foreign affairs, with whom he discussed the prospects of increasing French investments in Egypt and the establishment of joint companies in fields that can serve development. Michel Jobert also discussed the possibility of increasing Egyptian exports to France, particularly agricultural and textile commodities, and France's participation in setting up the first nuclear power station in Egypt. The station will be set up in the Ad-Dae'ah area on the northern coast, west of Alexandria.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Minister Arrives 11 Mar

NC111547 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) -- Colombia Foreign Affairs Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo arrived in Cairo this afternoon from New Delhi after attending the Nonaligned Conference there. He is on a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. The discussions between the Colombian foreign minister and Dr Ghali will deal with the bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

Ghali, Minister Hold Talks

NC132106 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this evening met with Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo. They reviewed developments in the Middle East situation. They also discussed the strengthening of the relations between Egypt and Colombia, particularly in the commerical and cultural fields, and the results of the Nonaligned Summit Conference.

Departs 14 Mar

NC140858 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0744 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) -- Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo this morning left Cairo on his way back to his country at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to Cairo. During his visit, the Colombian minister of foreign affairs met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. The two ministers reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East issue and in the Lebanese and Palestinian issues as well as the results of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference that was convened in New Delhi. The Egyptian and Colombian ministers also discussed the bolstering of bilateral relations.

AL-AHRAM DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS

PM101131 Cario AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "We refuse and object"]

[Excerpts] In my previous dialogue with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir Arafat, which I called dialogue from a distance and which was published on 7 January, I was very careful to keep that dialogue calm and ammicable.

My hope was that dialogue would once again prove a positive sign of the healthy politics which the Arab and Palestinian scene has lacked for a long time and after bitter conflicts and irrational behavior.

I now ask permission for this dialogue to depart from calmness and avoid sympathy as much as possible, because such feelings toward a group of people who deny what Egypt has offered for the Palestinian cause and delete with a pen stroke what the Egyptian people offered for that cause are meaningless.

We are faced with a group that classifies the Egyptian people into nationalist and nonnationalist forces, a group that attacks a head of state and a government that were democratically elected. It even tries to incite the people and the Army against this government.

What is the story, and what happened in Algeria?

We shall begin with the statements of the leaders, because they explain the contents of the resolutions adopted by the Algiers conference. We ask permission to publish them in full so that we will clearly understand what they are saying about us and so that we will once again learn the lesson in the hope that we can extricate the problem from the vicious circle which has long embraced it.

Let us begin with Salah Khalaf -- Abu Iyad, the second man in Fatah -- and see what he says toward the end of his speech.

Abu Iyad says: I believe that the contacts between Egypt and the PLO in the past few months have been a kind of mutual political opportunism between individuals having nothing to do with Palestinian decision making and Egyptian individuals of no consequence. The purpose of all these contacts was to create an attractive facade called Egyptian-Palestinian relations, that facade is of no benefit to either side.

The opportunist is someone who tries to reap personal benefits while alleging that he is working for the public interest. Was this Egypt's attitude during and after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon? What if we go back to some things that Egypt did during and after that invasion?

On 11 June, that is 6 days after the invasion, President Mubarak sent [Foreign Minister] Kamal Hasan 'Ali with an urgent message to President Reagan and also to meet with the president and then Secretary of State Haig.

On 29 [illegible] the foreign minister carried another message to the U.S. President and had contacts with Secretary of State Shultz.

On 12 November there was another message.

All these messages were not merely for information but contained Egyptian stands and principles. The tone of these messages varied greatly, and the day may come when they will be made public.

Egypt carried out all the requests made by the resistance during the siege of Beirut. All these are contained in coded messages which we all have with us.

The question that we would like to ask Abu Iyad is this: Is this considered Egyptian opportunism and, if so, for what purpose? Did the Arabs move as we did? Were their moves considered opportunism?

Were the silence and the suicide demands better than this serious and effective move?

We did not ask you to commit suicide, nor did we betray you on the battlefield. If you view what happened during the invasion as political opportunism, then how can you be trusted and how can relations be established with you? Does the PLO follow the same method of portunism with the Egyptian opposition? Tell us at least what your definition is contacts and what benefit Egypt derives from political opportunism,. If you knew that the persons you sent to represent you were people that had nothing to do with Palestinian decisionmaking, we say that those who received them in Egypt are highly-placed officials, well versed in the intricacies of the problem and involved in Egyptian decisionmaking.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said in his political report that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was a golden opportunity for the Egyptian regime to rectify the Camp David mistake and return Egypt to the Arab fold. But the regime failed the test. He said: Hopes are pinned on the Egyptian nationalist movement and the army to rectify this situation.

The editor of the Saudi paper AL-YAMAMAH which published this report said that these words were understood to be an incitement to those forces [the Egyptian nationalist forces and army] despite what was said behind the scenes at the PNC to the effect that the report reflected only Faruq Qaddumi's personal viewpoint and that the report was only preliminary and was subject to discussion and alteration.

We should add here that there was an assignment of roles in the PNC. In his speech to the council Yasir 'Arafat made no reference whatever to the Egyptian Government's and people's efforts. So, the fact that he was or was not aware of or did not expect what was going to be said or to happen in the council does not alter the fact that there was a prearranged agreement to harm Egypt and its people. For this reason we are certain that the PLO is repeating past mistakes, namely interfering in the internal affairs of the Arab countries. This happened in Jordan, and it resulted in the September massacre. It also happened in Lebanon, when the PLO interfered in the internal politics and sectarian strife. Syria allied itself with the Phalangists and the outcome was the Tall Az-Za'tar massacre. Although the PNC resolutions condemned none of those despite what is said about the Palestinian leaders' fear of "Hafiz al-Asad's stick," Egypt absolutely rejects interference in its internal affairs; that is something that it rejects even from the big powers. It is something that Egypt does not allow. Nobody even should dare to think that pressure can be brought to bear on the Egyptian Government in this matter and yet escape the consequences of such action.

Going back to Salah Khalaf -- Abu Iyad -- he says: I do not need to say how much we as a Palestinian people need the Egyptian people. He adds: With regard to Camp David, I as a Palestinian felt that this agreement robbed me of great strength, which is Egypt's strength; it was a strength that backed me in the achievement of my objectives, which are the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on part of the Palestinian soil....

The Camp David agreements did not steal Egypt's strength. In fact the Egyptian people are still tightening their belts for the sake of developing the armed forces and the deterrence weapons. The Egyptian people are still the same people who entered four wars, each of which cost at least the country's GNP for a whole year.

This was at a time when certain others were shifting icebergs to their country simply in order to cool the air; this is not to mention the funds that were invested in foreign banks or in arms that remained immobile on the ground, going rusty.

Abu Iyad asks: Did As-Sadat obtain anything for Palestine as the price for his visit to Israel? In fact he obtained nothing. The Camp David agreements came after, to offer autonomy as a solution to the Palestine problem. The basic fault in autonomy is that it excludes every Palestinian outside the West Bank from taking part in this solution.

We say that As-Sadat went to Israel not to extract payment but to strongly demand a comprehensive and lasting peace, the return of Jerusalem, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and an end to military rule. But it was the shortsightedness of the rejectionists that prevented us from recovering the land which we are still unable to rescue.

Abu Iyad says: Camp David should not be blamed on President Mubarak. He is not embarrassed when Camp David is attacked because he did not sign it but inherited it as part of As-Sadat's legacy.

We say: First, Husni Mubarak, a key figure in the regime, was present during the completion of these agreements. As-Sadat is not alone in being responsible for Camp David because all the people, including the opposition, endorsed it despite certain reservations.

Salah Khalaf wonders: How can we help Egypt under Husni Mubarak to get rid of the Camp David results? Is there any intention to rectify this historical mistake, which an Egyptian ruler has committed against the Palestinian people and even the Egyptian people? It is in the light of this rectification that we should resume our contracts with Egypt.

Once again we ask: Who asked for you such help? We reject such talk even from great powers and consider it interference in Egypt's internal affairs. We do not know how those people can allow themselves to interfere in Egypt's internal affairs -- Egypt being the biggest Arab state -- or by what right such interference is carried out.

We clearly state that we will not abandon the peace treaty because it is the people's choice, the people's destiny and the people's future. We will not abandon the framework of autonomy because so far there is no substitute that satisfied all the parties. Egypt cares strongly about the Palestine problem and the Palestinian people's rights, which it has not abandoned and will not abandon.

Abu Iyad says: Asking the PLO to recognize Israel is rejected; even mutual recognition is rejected because such recognition would weaken me before Israel, and unilateral recognition is even worse. That means disarming me of all the weapons that strengthen my position.

We say: You in fact recognized Israel when you announced your acceptance of the Fes resolutions. Your acceptance of the Soviet proposals is also a recognition of Israel.

'Isam as-Sartawi [Yasir 'Arafat's adviser] admitted before the PNC that at its meeting in Damascus 2 years ago the PNC accepted Brezhnev's proposals -- which is tantamount to recognizing Israel.

What do the PNC resolutions, described as the most important since it was established, say?

Resolution 6, which deals with Egypt, says: The council confirms its rejection of Camp David and all the plans for autonomy and self-administration assocaiated with it. Proceeding from firm belief in Egypt's role and the role of its great people in the Arab struggle, the council affirms its stand with the struggle of the Egyptian people and their nationalist forces to end the Camp David policy, so that Egypt will return to its struggle position in the heart of our Arab nation.

The council calls on the Executive Committee to develop relations with the Egyptian nationalist, democratic, and popular forces which are struggling against normalization and relations with the Zionist enemy in various forms on the grounds that this is an expression of the Arab nation's fundamental interests and strengthen the Palestinian people's struggle for their national rights.

The council calls on the Executive Committee to define relations with the Egyptian regime on the basis of its abandoning Camp David.

The first part of Resolution 6 stresses siding with the struggle of the Egyptian people and their nationalist forces so that Egypt will return to its struggle position in the heart of the Arab nation.

The question here is: Did Egypt abandon its position in the heart of the Arab nation, so that it must return to it? Egypt did not abandon its position in the heart of the Arab nation, and Egypt's struggle to recover the Palestinian people's rights need no evidence or proof.

The call for developing the PLO's relations with the Egyptian nationalist forces leads us to talk about the Egyptian delegation that went to Algiers. We would like to say that in the strict sense of the work there was no Egyptian delegation. There was a selection of respected personalities that were chosen by the PLO which sent the invitations, sent the plane, and chose and specified the names of the guests.

These were the PLO's guests from Egypt and strictly were not an Egyptian delegation that Egypt sent of its own free will. The government facilitated everyone's travel and did not interfere with those who declined to go.

The talk about defining relations between the PLO and the Egyptian regime makes it appear as if the Egyptian Government is being put to a test and is under observation. This is absolutely rejected. We ask: Who gave you the right to define our relatons? If it is a question of defining relations, Egypt tells those people that everything we have done, are doing, and will do is for the sake of the Palestinian people and their cause. We have no time to waste on trivialities and oneupmanship.

A final whisper in 'Arafat's ear:

"Mubarak is seeking to meet nobody."

OPPOSITION PAPER REPLIES TO PLO CRITICISM

PM141907 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 9 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Egypt and Palestine: Basic Facts"]

[Text] After the Palestine National Council [PNC] statement was issued the Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement commenting on the Palestinian statement, particularly regarding Egypt and the situation in the whole area. This is an understandable form of dialogue between parties that agree or disagree on a problem that concerns them. But what is causing concern is the escalation of the Egyptian response to the PNC resolution and the fact that it has lasted for such a long time.

What we are interested in is not the reasons behind this campaign but the way it can be contained and the desire to underline a number of basic facts that must govern Egypt's relations with the Palestinian revolution.

The first of these facts is that present and past experiences have confirmed that there are common interests between the Egyptian and Palestinian Arab peoples and that these interests are a subject of dialogue and concern for the two peoples and their political leaders. To discuss and agree or disagree on these facts is the right of everybody. In the meantime, the purely internal problems of every people and the method of choosing the leadership and rules of a people and bringing these rulers to account is something that concerns that people alone. The Egyptian people, parties, and political forces are alone responsible for choosing the Egyptian rulers and for bringing them to account in the manner acceptable by the Egyptian people. Likewise the Palestinian people alone have the right to bring to account leaders of their revolution who are represented in the PLO Executive Committee which is elected by the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The Palestinian problem is an Egyptian problem. Zionism and Israel have represented and still represent a constant and direct danger to Egyptian security. It is a fact that the Egyptian political intellect has been realized since the beginning of this century and was confirmed by the Egyptian people's experience whether under the monarchist regime or under the 23 July 1952 revolution. The wars that Egypt fought were in defense of its freedom and independence more than in defense of the Palestinian people in their territory. When the monarchist regime entered the 1948 war against the establishment of the State of Israel the aim was to protect Egypt's eastern borders against the new danger. The 1956 war was a war of defense against an invasion by Israel, Britian, and France to stop it recovering the Suez Canal and curb its revolution's progress toward the achievement of political and economic independence. The 1967 war was a premeditated Israeli war of aggression against Egypt, Syria, and Palestine. And the 1973 war was a war to liberate part of the occupied Sinai. All of these wars confirm that the Israeli danger threatens Egypt as much as it threatens Palestine and the rest of the Arab homeland.

Blaming Egypt's problems on the support given to the Palestinian people and saying that the Egyptian Government "has kept on postponing solving the people's problems until we have reached the present state of affairs, with the masses suffering difficulties and hardships in their daily life," is contrary to the truth and an evasion of defining responsibilities.

The studies submitted to the [Egyptian] economic conference which were published in the government newspapers (not to say the opposition papers) after As-Sadat's death have shown that the basic cause of Egypt's economic and social problem is the wrong economic policies that have been pursued since 1974 under the pretext of the open-door policy, which has led to the plundering of Egyptian wealth in the interest of adventurous foreign capital and local parisitic capitalism.

Nobody has the right to question the legitimacy of the PLO representation of the Palestinian people inside or outside the occupied territories. The PLO did not acquire legitimacy through recognition by this state or that state or by Arab summit resolutions, which were a confirmation of an established fact.

But rather the PLO acquired recognition through the thousands of martyrs who have fought since 1956 and to this day under its leadership and revived the cause of their people and their right to return and to establish an independent state of their own. And all the efforts that the Israeli enemy or this or that state have exerted in order to create a Palestinian force outside the PLO have failed, thus proving the role and nature of the PLO as a leader of this people in every place.

What was said during this campaign [against the PLO] -- that the whole of Egypt, including the opposition, approved Camp David accords despite some reservations -- is not true. We have rejected and others have rejected the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Day after day the front opposing these agreements that detract from the Egyptian people's sovereignty on their land and do not achieve the minimum of Palestinian rights is widening. The events in Lebanon have confirmed, as the Egyptian Government itself has admitted, that Egypt is still exposed to the danger of aggression from the east, that is from Israel.

There remains a final word to be said about the question of normalization of relations with Israel. Egyptian and Arab forces, including our [National Progressive Unionist Grouping] Party, supported President Husni Mubarak's decision to recall the Egyptian ambassador from Israel and not to invite Israel to the book exhibition or the industrial exhibition. But it appears that there are those who wish to take away this honor from the Egyptian Government and attribute this [decision] merely to Egypt's policy of economic cuts and savings and to say that this was not a blow to the normalization process itself, as the government spokesman said. Although this problem basically concerns the Egyptian Government of the day, the danger lying behind this continuation is that it closes the door to a dialogue that was supposed to have begun in order to liberate the Egyptian will of the Camp David shackles.

COMMUNIQUE ON 14-15 MARCH WAR OPERATIONS

JN151716 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 15 Mar 83

Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have inflicted on the Iranian forces of aggression human and material losses. Those counted amounted to six men killed and two vehicles, two observation posts, and one hardware stockpile destroyed. Communique No 1,029 issued by the Armed Forces General Command here tonight said that the artillery of the Khomeyniite clique today intermittently shelled Mandali and its suburbs, damaging a number of civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique.

Communique No 1,029 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While defending great Iraq and its glorious revolution, our brave armed forces' determination will remain great in fighting the forces of the suspect Iranian regime which insists on committing aggression and evil deeds. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units spotted a group of enemy personnel in front of our positions in the Maysan sector. Our unit pounded them, killing three and wounding others.

2. Two were killed and two vehicles and two observation posts were destroyed in the central sector of the front.

3. One was killed and one hardware stockpile was destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. The artillery of the mean Khomeyniite clique today intermittently shelled Mandali and its suburbs damaging a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 March 1983

RAMADAN OPENS ARAB AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

JN151422 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, March 15, (INA) -- Agriculture ministers of the Arab Gulf and peninsula began here Tuesday their 8th conference to tackle agricultural problems that face their countries and means for furthering cooperation. Inaugurating the conference, Revolution Command Council member and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan said the 30-month-old Iraq-Iran war will not impede the development process being carried out in the country. He said Iraq invested more than I.D. two billions, approximately 7 million dollars, in the agricultural development for the period of 1975-1981.

Mr Ramadan stressed Iraq's faith in the necessity of economic integration in the Arab Gulf countries, saying it is a strategic necessity and serious step on the path of pan-Arab cooperation and integration. The RCC member emphasized the necessity of transcending development plan of regional dimensions and act to implement development process in the Arab Gulf on the ground of being part of the pan-Arab development.

Agriculture ministers of Saudi Arabi, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, North and South Yemen and Iraq are taking part in the meetings.

PAPERS COMMENT ON SHULTZ, ARENS REMARKS

JN160949 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States and Israel and the Attempt To Jump Over Facts," AD-DUSTUR says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has spoken to THE WASHINGTON POST and asserted that it is time a move was made toward peace in the Middle East. It was clear that the secretary of state was trying to hold Jordan responsible for this inaction. It was also clear that Shultz was holding Jordan responsible for the serious results of its inaction toward peace.

Yesterday, the Israeli defense minister said something similar before the Knesset, although, the two ministers used different methods and words, the objective was clear and specific; namely, holding Jordan responsible for obstructing the peace process and the search for a just settlement.

The statement by Shultz and Arens are part of a mounting large-scale campaign to achieve one objective -- absolving Israel and portraying it as the party which seeks peace and settlement. Whether or not there is coordination between the U.S. Administration and the Israeli authorities in this campaign, their participation in it serves the purposes of both sides, the United States, which has proved unable and undesirous to put any pressure on Israel and whose prestige and credibility have been badly shaken and resented among the Arab people, now wants to hold Jordan responsible for that inability in an attempt to absolve itself. Similarly, Israel, which rejects peace and a just settlement, does not want to appear before the world in its true colors. It thinks that putting the blame on Jordan might reduce world denunciation of Israel as an occupier which has violated all pacts and principles to turn its military occupation of the Arab territory into complete colonialization.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Washington definitely knows that Jordan cannot replace the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, if the United States is indeed concerned about peace and wants to solve the crux of the Middle East crisis represented by the Palestine question. Their values, principles, courage, and credibility make it incumbent on the United States to enable the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative to play the required legitimate role of searching for peace and a settlement. But neither the Reagan administration nor the Begin administration would accept this.

Since the Palestinian side has not yet clearly determined its position on the peace process and since hesitation still characterizes the Palestinian position on this process, Jordan, as it has always announced, has no right to undertake other people's role, and, if we add to all this, Israel's repeated assertion that the occupied Arab territories are liberated Israeli territories, the question posed is: What will be the subject of these negotiations, which the Begin and Reagan administrations are asking Jordan to quickly join? What seems ridiculous, as events and statements have already confirmed, is that the United States and Israel expect Jordan to participate in Israel's celebration of the liberation of its alleged territories, and, if Jordan refuses to participate in such a celebration, it would be considered as having rejected peace and settlement. We believe that the waiting will be long and that the results of the very lukewarm U.S. stand will exceed all limits, contrary to what Washington believes. This would be a catastrophe that nobody would wish, especially those who seek justice, peace, and human rights.

Under the headline "An Initiative Or a Theatrical?" AR-RA-Y says: It is a fact that Israel's intention is to freeze the peace efforts, including the Reagan plan. That is why it rejected them all. It is now determined to place obstacles in the way of reactivating these efforts through Arab or international endeavors. Israel has used the biggest obstacle, the building of settlements. It has also announced from time to time that it will not give up its settlement policy. This was what Defense Minister Arens said before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

In order to absolve itself of any responsibility for aborting the peace efforts, Israel occasionally asks this or that Arab side to join what it terms peace negotiations, but it links its call with a precondition stressing the need to continue with the settlements. Israel thus compels the invited party to reject its call and at the same time guarantees a deadlock in the peace efforts.

The Israeli method of opposing the peace process is not new. What is new, however, is what Arens said before the Knesset when comparing Israel and U.S. strategies in the region. He announced that these strategies are identical and that the ostensible U.S.-Israeli differences are only on tactics, nothing else.

This serious suggestion of prior coordination between the U.S. role, which put forward the peace initiative and criticizes the building of settlements only verbally, and the Israeli role, which rejects the initiative and insists on proceeding with the settlement policy, can only mean one thing: the Reagan initiative is no more than a theatrical on whose production Israel and the United States are cooperating. Needless to say, this cooperation is greatly harmful to U.S. prestige and influence in the region. Undoubtedly, Arens knows this. Therefore, it is not in the personal interest of the U.S. Administration to remain silent. In light of the Arens remarks, the U.S. Administration is dutybound to prove that it is serious about the initiative proposed by Reagan and is not a partner in a theatrical called the initiative. This proof is only possible by taking a firm stand to freeze Israeli settlements in the occupied areas.

AR'RA'Y concludes: The credibility of Arens and the credibility of the U.S. Administration are now in the balance. Which of them will tip it? and, is the initiative a theatrical or a fact?

'SOURCE' SAYS KING HUSAYN TO VISIT FRG 16 MARCH

JN151218 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has stated that His Majesty King Husayn will pay a 1-day working visit to the Federal Republic of Germany tomorrow, Wednesday, during which his majesty will meet with His Excellency President Karl Carstens, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and other senior officials.

His majesty will be accompanied by a delegation comprising a number of senior officials.

BRIEFS

NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR -- Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim today received the credentials of Elis Ingemar Stjernberg, the Swedish ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court. [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 83 JN]

U.S. PATROL AMBUSHED; ONE MARINE WOUNDED

NC160940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A U.S. Marine patrol was ambushed at about 0900 today in the Khaldah-Al-Awza'i area. One member of the patrol was wounded. Only 2 minutes after the incident, the B'abda garrison deployed 10 patrols of the emergency squad in the area of the incident where several people were held for questioning.

Sources in the security forces said that a force from the Army, the Internal Security Forces, and the Marines immediately intervened and carried out a large-scale operation searching for those who had opened fire.

REUTER, quoting a U.S. Marines spokesman, says that three Marines of the multinational force in Beirut were wounded this morning when a handgrenade was hurled at their patrol. The wounded men were given immediate medical treatment at the scene of the incident. The spokesman said that a helicopter is standing by to remove them to a U.S. 6th Fleet hospital ship anchored near Beirut.

ITALIAN PATROL ATTACKED IN BEIRUT 15 MAR

NC152155 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2126 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon reporter is now with us on the line to report about a serious incident that took place in Burj al-Barajinah tonight:

[Unidentified reporter] An incident which occurred less than an hour ago is the first one involving the Italian contingent operating within the multinational force. According to preliminary reports, gunmen attacked an Italian patrol consisting of 2 jeeps at the Burj al-Barajinah crossroads in the direction of the airport less than an hour ago.

According to preliminary information, the gunmen attacked the patrol, wounding three of its members, one of them seriously. The seriously wounded member has been removed to the field hospital near [word indistinct]. Italian forces and Lebanese Army units came to the scene of the incident. We have not been able to obtain additional information because all the telephone lines among the main operations rooms and the higher political authorities are busy following up news of the incident.

According to the available information, when the patrol was attacked at 2215, the Italian force in the area cut off all the roads leading to the scene of the incident. Italian contingent Commander General [name indistinct] was summoned before any information was leaked even to the liaison officials.

This incident is not the first of its kind involving the multinational forces. The French forces had been subjected to several incidents. However, the higher security and official circles are busy following up the news of the incident. All that we have now is that three members of the Italian contingent have been wounded and two jeeps have been destroyed. The jeeps have since been towed away. Combing operations are continuing. Italian units and Lebanese Army units belonging to the greater Beirut operation force are taking part in these combing operations. This is all we have so far about the incident.

[Announcer] Thank you.

SYRIAN-ISRAELI FORCES EXCHANGE FIRE

NC160826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Tension increased on the Al-Biqa' front in the last 48 hours following an exchange of fire for the third time in 5 days between the Syrian and the Israeli forces along the Kamid al-Lawz-as-Sultan Ya'qub axis. The recent exchange was at midnight of Monday-Tuesday.

For 36 hours the Syrian forces have been deploying dozens of tanks along the contact lines while they had thinned their forces 10 days ago. Convoys of busses have moved many personnel to the eastern and western Al-Biqa'.

SHOOTING INCIDENT OUTSIDE BEIRUT REPORTED

NC151256 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, March 15 (AFP) -- Several people were wounded today when gunmen opened fire from a speeding vehicle at a house in the town of 'Alayh, southeast of Beirut, Israeli radio reported from Lebanon.

The radio correspondent said the wounded were all Lebanese Christians and that one of the group was kidnapped by the gunmen.

The radio said that troops were searching the area, under Israeli control, for the attackers. The correspondent added that Israeli military authorities did not know if the gunmen were of the Druze community, which has been in conflict with the Christian militia in the region for several months.

EXPLOSIONS AT SYRIAN STATION CONFIRMED

NC160736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A security report indicates that there were two explosions at a Syrian forces' station in Ta'nayil near Zahlah causing a big fire in the station. Subsequently, the Syrian forces cut the traffic along the international highway in both directions. No information is available about the cause of the explosions which caused several casualties.

IRISH DEFENSE MINISTER ON UNIFIL PARTICIPATION

NC151802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Following his meeting with Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus today, Irish Defense Minister Patrick Cooney said Ireland is prepared to continue to participate in UNIFIL and to respond to any change in its duties when the question will be raised at the UN Security Council, particularly if this will contribute to the establishment of peace in Lebanon and impose the state's sovereignty over its territory.

23D NEGOTIATIONS SESSION TO BE HELD 17 MAR

NC151936 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The spokesman of the Lebanese delegation to the tripartite negotiations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon tonight said the 23d negotiations session will be held in Netanya as scheduled on Thursday, contrary to the reports disseminated today about the possibility of postponing them.

SALAM TO CONVEY AL-JUMAYYIL MESSAGE TO REAGAN

NC151624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Telephone report from Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Washington 'Aziz Ra'd -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Informed U.S. sources have disclosed to the Voice of Lebanon that during his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minsiter Yitzhaq Shamir, President Reagan emphasized two points. The first point is the U.S. rejection of any Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon following the agreement on withdrawals. The second point is his commitment to Israel's security and his demand to Shamir to accelerate the peace process.

Information has been attributed here to U.S. officials to the effect that the most important things about Shamir's meeting at the White House is that he will be returning to his country to convey the stance of President Reagan, who did not agree to keeping any Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon.

On the other hand, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said when he appeared on NBC television this morning that the Lebanese president's message, which he will deliver to President Reagan tomorrow, is one of appreciation of the U.S. President and his administration because of what he has done for Lebanon. The message requests the U.S. president to exert more efforts. A request to increase the number of the U.S. forces with the multinational force is one of the points included in the message.

SA'IB SALAM INTERVIEW ON TALKS IN U.S.

NC151443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Sa'ib Salam, Lebanese presidential envoy to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, interviewed by Voice of Lebanon correspondent 'Aziz Ra'd, in Washington on 14 March -- recorded]

[Text] [Aziz Ra'd] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'id Balam, President al-Jumayyil's personal envoy to Washington, who have been entrusted with meeting President Reagan and conveying a special message from the Lebanese president, has described the talks held last night during a working dinner hosted by the U.S. secretary of state in honor of the Lebanese delegation and himself as very good. In an exclusive interview granted to me in the Madison Hotel a short while after his return from these talks, Salam declined to disclose the content of the presidential message that he will deliver for President Reagan Wednesday. He said, however, that it was a message of friendship and appreciation and one which weeks cooperation with the [U.S.] President, who has committed himself to seek the establishment of peace in Lebanon. I asked Salam about his assessment of the current talks in Washington.

[Salam] I am sure, following these 2 days here in Washington, that this visit was very necessary and extremely useful. Nothing can replace personal contacts. Naturally, I have come on a mission assigned to me by his excellency the president who wanted me to represent him at the meeting with the U.S. President, whom I have not met yet. I can say, however, that the coming of the Lebanese delegation, which joined the foreign minister on the one hand, and my simultaneous coming as a representative of his excellency the president to meet with President Reagan, have given great importance to the Lebanese presence here. This is particularly so in view of the fact that a very big Israeli delegation preceded us here in Washington. It is a matter of contacts with officials and with the American people. The contacts we have held with the American people through television, news agencies, and newspapers were also important because we held them from Washington and not Lebanon.

Some time ago, we were with the U.S. secretary of state at his invitation. We held talks before and during dinner. In my view, the talks made the current situation clear as well as Lebanon's views and stand. We demonstrated that the Lebanese stand is now united as never before. The presence of all of us here has proved my slogan that Lebanon is united and one and not two or many. Naturally, this stand will influence the Americans. We do not want to miss this opportunity. Lebanese solidarity and unanimity in support of the new president and his government in their efforts to establish peace in Lebanon by withdrawing all non-Lebanese armed men from Lebanon, particularly the Israeli occupation, is a goal that we can reach in not too long a time.

[Question] There is information that there was a possibility of concluding an agreement on withdrawals, but that Shamir or Israel went back on this at the last moment. Can we learn your views on such information?

[Answer] The question with Israel, as I have always believed, is one of ebb and tide and a tug of war. We have grown accustomed to Israel's negative stances of rejection and frenzy. Israel, however, cannot persist in this stance vis-a-vis the sound logic and strong Lebanese will. We have come to the negotiating table in order to achieve peace. Thus, we want peace. There is Lebanese unanimity on the desire for peace. There are many voices in Israel that want peace, but there are also hawks there who still adhere to their negative stands. I believe that the American involvement in the issue -- the current talks are tripartite and not between us and Israel, but include the United States as an effective partner [sentence as heard]. When we seek and succeed in making the Americans understand our sound stand, with sound logic and arguments supported by facts, we will make big strides.

[Question] U.S. Government sources say that Israel or Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir brought nothing new to these talks. Have the talks in Washington produced any new developments or any steps which could bring a solution nearer?

[Answer] Again I say that it was very useful for us to hold talks with the Americans, because I felt the results of the talks and the meetings which the foreign minister held, and which we together held today with the U.S. secretary of state -- I felt that there is greater and deeper understanding of the Lebanese reality than there was before.

[Question] In other words, Sa'ib Bey, you will return to Beirut with a greater degree of optimism, or what is the barometer of pessimism or optimism with regard to these talks?

[Answer] Of course, we did not come here for negotiations. Negotiations remain within the scope of the negotiating committee or negotiating committees in Lebanon and Israel. We came here to consolidate the Lebanese position and to open the way for the Americans to take clear and firm positions in support of the Lebanese position or, in fact, in support of what is right. We do not want the Americans to be partial in favor of Lebanon. We want the Americans to take the right and correct course, and that is enough for us. We also hope Israel will be satisfied with this, too.

You asked me about optimism and pessimism. Had I not been optimistic, I would not have made this trip. After my stay here, I find myself still optimistic. I hope that we will achieve the peace we are seeking in the not too distant future.

[Question] What is your impression of your meeting tonight with Secretary of State George Shultz?

[Answer] My impression is very good. He and his assistants were in the meeting, and he and his assistants showed complete understanding for the viewpoints explained to them by all the members of the Lebanese delegation and by me personally.

[Question] Sa'ib Bey, when will you meet with President Reagan, and what is the point you will focus on in your talks with him?

[Answer] First, I came especially to convey a message to him from the president of the republic. He will give me the time to convey this message to him. Of course, it is a message of friendship, appreciation, and it seeks cooperation with the Americans through all the officials and through the president, who has committed himself to make serious and persistent efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon and in the area. He is now endeavoring to establish peace in Lebanon, because everyone is convinced that [the solution of] Lebanon's issue has clearly become the key to [the solution of] the area's issue. What happens in Lebanon will lead to the establishment of peace in the area. I again say that the most important thing about the presence of the Lebanese here today is to display this Lebanese unity, which is our primary and ultimate strength. I felt that this phenomenon has had an effect on the Americans. They realize that when we make a move, we make it as a unified and one Lebanon. I hope that this will be maintained and strengthened through the consciousness of all the Lebanese. I always had confidence in the Lebanese consciousness. If we deviated here and there, this should be a lesson to us. I see today that the atmosphere in Lebanon is conducive to solidarity and cooperation day after day.

[Ra'd] On another level, the Israeli foreign minister is expected to meet once again with Secretary Shultz before returning to Israel. The voice of Lebanon will report to you in full on all the details and developments.

SALIM MEETS HABIB, SHULTZ IN WASHINGTON 15 MAR

NC152026 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the current consultations being held with the Lebanese and Israeli delegations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon are about to end. In a statement he made following his meeting with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib and Ambassador Morris Draper in Washington, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim spoke of basic difficulties obstructing the negotiations with Israel. However, Dr Salim hinted that progress has been made in defining all sides' stands and positions.

Minister Salim said the Americans are exerting all efforts to present new views clarifying the stands. He added that the crystallization of these stands will take some time. Minister Salim emphasized Lebanon's adherence to its full freedom, independence, and sovereignty over all its territory. These are natural rights which the United States knows well, Minister Salim added. Salim today met with his U.S. counterpart George Shultz in an attempt to close the views between the Lebanese and Israeli sides. According to reports from Washington, the U.S. capital opposes any Israeli military presence in Lebanon within the framework of the security arrangements along the southern border.

AL-JUMAYYIL REVIEWS SITUATION AT VARIOUS MEETINGS

NC151231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today reviewed the current situation and the official Lebanese moves to ensure comprehensive withdrawals from Lebanese territory with His Eminence Cardinal Patriarch Khuraysh, who visited him at the Republican Palace accompanied by Bishop Nasrallah Sfayr. Al-Jumayyil then received former Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Al-Jumayyil later chaired the meeting of the political committee of the liaison body in the presence of the four ambassadors and the team of Lebanese and international officers.

We now have colleague Joe Sa'adah to talk about the Republican Palace meetings:

[Begin recording] President Amin al-Jumayyil reviewed with head of the Lebanese delegation to the tripartite negotiations Dr Antoine Fattal the results reached so far at the Lebanese-U.S. talks which are being held in Washington to give a new momentum to the tripartite negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona.

This subject was reviewed by President al-Jumayyil with Cardinal Khuraysh, former Minister Fu'ad Butrus and lawyer Nabih Birri. It was also raised at the meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body. Cardinal Khuraysh thanked the president for his efforts which he considers to be on the right path. Former Minister Butrus congratulated the government on its moves, be they in New Delhi or in Washington or at the level of cohesion of the domestic stance. He regards these efforts as a step toward the aspired solution.

At the political committee meeting, chaired by Al-Jumayyil, after hearing a security review, the president spoke about the negotiations and the government's efforts in this respect including contacts with Arab officials especially in New Delhi and the current efforts in Washington. President al-Jumayyil noted that these efforts could lead to positive developments. Hence, this would require that the multinational force be prepared to increase its numbers to be redeployed in line with the new mission which will be entrusted to it, should positive developments arise. President al-Jumayyil discussed the internal situation describing it as constantly improving despite the negative signs which appear in several areas. [end recording]

PRESS ON CURRENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON

NC150850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] AL-BAYRAQ says that the United States has been acting as though it has reached an accord at the U.S. and international level on solving the Lebanon crisis and that of the Middle East. However, U.S. practice is still stumbling for more than 6 months. The paper wonders whether all the delegations will return from the United States without results or whether the U.S. Administration will adopt a stand and make a decision on starting the process of a solution before the delegations return. The question is posed and the U.S. Administration alone has the answer.

AL-LIWA' says that the time factor plays a considerable part in the current consultations in Washington. The paper adds that as a result of concern over the time factor, observers speak of the possibility of U.S. pressure that will yield fruits by this weekend with the possibility of signing an agreement on 25 March and at the latest on 10 April. The observers add that U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib will convey this agreement to the tripartite committees' meetings for approval provided that its implementation will begin soon.

On the current talks in Washington, AL-'AMAL says: While the U.S.-Lebanese and the U.S.-Israeli contacts have been intensified, observers in Washington do not expect an extraordinary agreement to be reached. They perceive that the real progress will take place in Khaldah and Netanya under the supervision of special envoy Philip Habib. However, these observers stress that the Washington talks may have cut short the negotiations at the psychological level, as Minister Salim said, by several weeks.

PAPERS COMMENT ON U.S.-ISRAELI WASHINGTON TALKS

JN160850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Text] Every U.S.-Israeli round of talks is essentially aimed at preparing for a certain action against Arab Syria in an attempt to turn it away from its principled pan-Arab stands in confronting the schemes being undertaken against our Arab nation's land and existence.

Under the headline "The Implementation of Agression Is the Aim of the U.S.-Israeli Coordination," ATH-THAWRAH editorializes on the real and undeclared dimensions of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's Washington visit and his meetings with U.S. officials. ATH-THAWRAH says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's talks with Yitzhaq Shamir focused on two basic points: first, to coordinate hostile steps against Syria; secondly, the way to develop the U.S.-Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon under the guise of security arrangements.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The U.S.-Zionist coordination comes after the intensification of the Lebanese resistance operations against the Zionist invaders and at a time when these operations began to frighten the invading forces and inflict the heaviest possible losses on them. These operations forced the invaders to use the Mosad in southern Lebanon to combat the Lebanese resistance after the failure of all search and repressive campaigns to provide security for the invading forces.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: This affirms that the United States and Israel are seeking to undertake a new hostile adventure aimed at creating a new fait accompli by means of which the Israeli occupation of Lebanon can be extended into years, as frankly stated in Washington by Shamir. This is the reason for the legitimate world public concern over the U.S.-Israeli hostile preparations against Syria and for the escalating campaign of condemnation of such preparations.

Concluding, ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria will not be frightened by threats. While preparing to defend itself and its land out of its legitimate right to confront aggression, Syria will not hesitate to offer any sacrifice for the sake of liberating Lebanon from the Zionist invasion. The battle being waged by Syria is a national, pan-Arab battle in which our main enemy is Israel and the forces supporting it.

We will continue this subject with an AL-BA'TH editorial headlined "Lebanon's Stand Requires Backing in Order to Develop." The paper says: The U.S. Administration is quite aware of Lebanon's position on the subject of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from its lands. This administration is trying to depict itself as neutral although -- as reported by news agencies and U.S. officials' statements -- fully supports the Israeli stand regarding the withdrawal from Lebanon. This means that it supports Israel's security and political demands. Facts indicate that transferring negotiations to Washington is only a U.S. attempt to develop negotiations and turn them into another step along the Camp David line.

U.S. President Regan, who tries to show that he favors a quick Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, stressed to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the day before yesterday, that he is fully committed to supporting Israel's security, considering himself a strong friend of Israel. He asked Shamir to convey this to Begin.

AL-BA'TH adds: Regan's remarks came a few hours after Shamir's threats that Israel's forces will not withdraw from Lebanon for at least 3 yeras or before reaching a political and security agreement with Lebanon.

This simply means that the Reagan administration not only approves Israel's intentions against Lebanon and the Arabs in general, but also participates in planning and implementing all that is undertaken by Begin's government. What draws attention is that this U.S. stand has coincided with Begin's assertion that there can be no alternative to the Camp David accords, that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are an integral part of his racist entity, and that the autonomy plan applies to the inhabitants and not to the land.

AL-BA'TH continues: It is true that the Reagan administration is seeking to implicate the Arabs, one country after the other, in the Camp David accords. However, Lebanon, despite all pressures, is still insisting -- as is declared -- or not relinquishing any of its rights despite of the amount of pressure or temptation, particularly those rights concerning its independence and national sovereignty over all its lands. If Foreign Minister Elie Salim stressed in Washington that Lebanon refuses any Israeli withdrawal at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty or its links with its Arab nation, such a Lebanese stand requires Arab backing in order to continue and develop. This fraternal country will then be able to hold out in the face of the U.S.-Israeli pressures.

The firmness and development of the Lebanese stand also means foiling the attempts of those who want to join the Camp David plot, especially since at present there are some who are getting ready to join in the negotiations that are being planned by Washington. The Arab support which Lebanon requires at this time in particular should be a real support that will enable it to hold out in the face of pressures and to reject all that can undermine its sovereignty and national independence.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: It is time for a serious Arab awakening in order to face the reality and to confront the U.S. policy which is supporting the Israeli aggression. It is also time for all the Arabs to realize that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon or any other Arab land through negotiations in which Washington throws all its weight behind the Zionist enemy. What is required now more than at any time before is serious and real Arab support for the Lebanese stand in order to boost and develop it for the sake of foiling maneuvers and wresting Lebanon's full right to sovereignty and independence.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES JUNBLATT, PSP DELEGATION

JN151348 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Mar (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt and a PSP command delegation comprising Tawfiq Sultan, Muhsin Dallul, [name indistinct] Ra'd and former Lebanese Minister Marwan Hamadah.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region and all aspects of the Lebanese situation.

REPORT ON SHAMIR-SHULTZ MEETING IN WASHINGTON

TA151629 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1555 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The meeting in Washington between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended a short while ago. It appears that the foreign minister is not yet leaving the United States. Rafi Mann is on the telephone from Washington:

After 2 days of listening to the details of Israel's and Lebanon's positions, it seems that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is trying during to reduce the gaps between the two countries' positions. A few minutes ago, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ended a talk with Shultz which lasted about 45 minutes.

[Begin Shamir recording] We are discussing all kinds of possibilities, and we have set another meeting for 1400. [end recording]

We are discussing all kinds of possibilities, Shamir said, without going into detail. In about an hour, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim, who as known, is also visiting the U.S. capital, will likely arrive here for a separate meeting. At 2100 Israel time, Shamir will return here for another meeting with Shultz. At this moment, it is not known what U.S. possibilities are involved, but it clearly appears that there is a U.S. effort not only to listen, but to achieve progress in the talks, apparently in the more problematic matter of the security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Shamir will return to Israel tonight, and it is to be presumed that he will bring the proposals being discussed here for the Cabinet's examination. This is Rafi Mann at the U.S. State Department.

Shamir, Shultz Meet Again

TA152023 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir went in to another meeting, the fourth, with his U.S. counterpart George Shultz, in an effort to reach an agreement [sikum] that will enable advancing the talks in Lebanon. Lebanese foreign Minister Elie Salim met with Secretary Shultz for the third time before that. On leaving the meeting, Salim said that the United States had brought up new ideas in an effort to bridge the gap regarding security patrols in southern Lebanon and in Israeli-Lebanese ties. Salim said that there are still difficulties but that there is also progress.

In his opinion, discussing the new U.S. proposals will take time. The United States, Lebanon, and Israel put an honest effort into solving the disputed points, he said.

Meanwhile it was revealed that U.S. envoy Philip Habib will return to the Middle East in the next few days.

SHAMIR BRINGING 'NEW U.S. PROPOSALS' FOR LEBANON

TA160542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is on his way back to Israel carrying new U.S. proposals, the gist of which involves a suggestion to train a special Lebanese unit under close U.S. supervision, and the establishment of a joint military committee together with Israeli, U.S., and Lebanese supervision teams. The United States supports the Lebanese position that no permanent Israeli military presence in Lebanon be permitted.

Here is a report from Washington by Shalom Qital:

[Begin recording] [Qital] After nearly 10 hours of deliberations stretching over 3 days, Yitzhaq Shamir left the concluding meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with a declaration: We have made progress; the Israeli and U.S. positions are now closer to each other; the United States has submitted new suggestions and ideas for an arrangement in Lebanon.

[Shamir] I am going home with the new ideas, and there we will have to reassess their suggestions and ours, and continue the negotiations and reach an agreement.

[Qital] What are the new U.S. ideas Shamir is carrying to Israel? Well, the United States still objects to an Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon in any form. What it suggests instead is the establishment of a special Lebanese unit that would be trained and equipped by the United States. The Israeli involvement will be in the form of joint supervision teams, together with the United States and Lebanon, but these supervision teams will not be armed nor will they conduct raids in Lebanon. There will be a joint military committee for all three countries.

The United States also recommends assigning a role to the 6,000 UNIFIL men and is prepared to increase the multinational force units, except that Israel had already expressed firm opposition to this, which is why an alternative way will be found to incorporate Americans in the supervision and control system in southern Lebanon, such as the one we had already mentioned: through the training of a special Lebanese unit.

When I asked the foreign minister whether he plans to recommend adopting the U.S. proposals to the Cabinet, Yitzhaq Shamir said: I, too, have still got to make up my mind, and experts must first examine the new ideas and see to what extent they answer Israel's security demands [derishot]. This is Shalom Qital in Washington. [end recording]

ARENS ANNOUNCES CHIEF OF STAFF APPOINTMENT

TA151612 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] We now go over to the Knesset, where the Cabinet completed a short meeting a few minutes ago at which it approved the appointment of Major General Moshe Levi as the IDF's next chief of staff. After the meeting, Defense Minister Moshe Arens made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Arens] The Cabinet unanimously approved the appointment of Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen Moshe Levi as the IDF's next chief of staff. I devoted a large part of my time and efforts since entering office to the question of choosing the IDF's next chief of staff. Fortunately for us, this was a difficult decision because there are a number of officers in the IDF's senior command who have the qualifications and talents, the typical Israeli combination of intelligence and courage, who are able to be chiefs of staff -- and perhaps some of them will yet be chiefs of staff in the IDF.

We chose Maj Gen Moshe Levi as the man most suitable today. I am glad that the Cabinet approved my recommendation. The IDF's next chief of staff, Maj Gen Moshe Levi, should be congratulated.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, what are the security problems Israel faces that determined your decision to choose Maj Gen Levi for this post?

[Arens] On this festive occasion, we will not get into Israel's security problems. We will yet have time to deal with them.

[Question by another unidentified correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, what will happen with the two other major generals who were mentioned as candidates, major generals who were mentioned as candidates, Major General Ben-Gal and Major General Dan Shomron?

[Arens] It is premature to ask that question. To the extent that it depends on me, we will, of course, make an effort to keep every talented officer in the IDF.

[Question by yet another unidentified correspondent] Mr Arens, when will the new chief of staff assume his post.

[Arens] I think that the cabinet secretary can give you the exact date. [end recording]

That was Defense Minister Moshe Arens. His remarks were recorded by our correspondent Moshe Hakohen.

ARENS REMARKS ON WAR AGAINST SYRIA, SAM-5'S

TA151503 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1452 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said in the Knesset that Israel neither wants a war with Syria nor it it threatening Syria. On the contrary, Israel is ready to conduct negotiations any time and any place. Arens was speaking in response to a motion to the agenda by MK Mordekhay Gur of the Alignment. He said the Syrians are liable to think they can drag the soviets into a flare-up in the area following the positioning of the SAM-5's in Syria. Arens expressed the hope that the situation would not deteriorate, and said that if it becomes necessary, we will be able to cope with those systems as well.

POST SAYS ARENS OPPOSES SETTLEMENT FREEZE

TA160746 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by the Knesset correspondent]

[Text] Defence Minister Moshe Arens yesterday said that there is no reason to put a freeze on settlement in Judaea and Samaria merely to enable King Husayn of Jordan to enter the peace negotiations.

Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that Israel objected in principle to the sort of precondition for negotiation which a freeze would represent.

At the same time, Arens said, Israel called upon Husayn to join the peace process.

The minister described relations between Israel and the U.S. on the strategic plane as "similar to relaticns between allies." The differences of opinion between the two countries are merely "tactical," he declared. It is only natural for allies to make concessions to each other, he said. For that reason, Israel had waived its demand, for the time being, for a contractual peace agreement with Lebanon, even though it disagreed with American objections to that demand. "But on matters of life and death we shall make no concessions," he cautioned.

Arens said he would restrict his security survey because he was afraid that what he told the committee would be leaked outside.

In the discussion, which was incomparably more placid and objective than those held with former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon, Yiga'el Hurvitz (Likud-independent) said that the settlements in the areas were what made Israel so much stronger in any political negotiations. Beni Shalita (Likud-Herut) said that Israel must not give the U.S. any territorial or political concessions for the sake of improving bilateral relations because the improvement would be transient, whereas the concessions would be permanent and irreversible.

Pinhas Goldstein (Likud-Liberals) accused the U.S. of seeking to manipulate Israel by "remote control," like a puppet.

Yosef Sarid (Alignment-Labour) dismissed Arens' statement that Israel and the U.S. maintain a strategic partnership. "They disagree with us on every major issue," he said.

Mordekhay Gur (Alignment-Labour), a former chief of staff, took Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf [Lt Gen] Refa'el Eytan sharply to talk for justifying the occupation of Judaea and Samaria on the grounds that the takeover of Galilee in the war of independence had been in defiance of the partition of the country by the UN. "Eytan made an irresponsible statement which proves that some people know no bounds whatsoever when they polemicize with their political opponents," Gur said.

KIRKPATRICK REPORTEDLY SAYS U.S. DEPRIVING ISRAEL

TA161059 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1051 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] In an interview, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick has told IDF radio that there is a degree of truth in the Israeli feeling that the United States is trying to deprive Israel of the fruits of its victory in Lebanon. That is because the two countries' interests in Lebanon are not identical. Interviewed by our correspondent Moshe Hakohen, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations also referred to the injuries suffered by the five U.S. Marines in Beirut this morning, and said that the incident would not influence the U.S. readiness to participate in the security arrangements in Lebanon.

U.S. MARINES WOUNDED IN BEIRUT 16 MARCH

TA160806 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Three U.S. Marines were wounded in Beirut by a handgrenade hurled at a patrol near the airport. This was reported by the Marines' spokesman in Beirut. They were evacuated by helicopter to the 6th Fleet ships anchored near the coast. The soldiers' condition is unknown.

Report on Injuries

TA160946 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0939 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Here is an update from Beirut: The condition of the five U.S. Marines who were wounded this morning by a handgrenade has been said to be not serious. The one who threw the handgrenade at the U.S. patrol in Beirut has not yet been captured.

IDF SOLDIER WOUNDED IN S. LEBANON BY LANDMINE

TA151514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] An IDF soldier was wounded at noon when an armored truck hit a land mine near the village of Al-Khiyam in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the mine was an old one.

HADDAD REJECTS U.S. OFFERS OF JOINT PATROLS

TA160756 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad does not want to have any sort of joint patrols in this territory, either with the Lebanese Army or with U.S. forces. Reacting to the latest U.S. proposals, Haddad said that even after the IDF leaves Lebanon, it will be his units that will control the 45-km strip. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports on Haddad's remarks:

[Begin recording] U.S. envoy Philip Habib brought to Israel a number of alternative suggestions to Israel's demand [derishat] to set up early warning stations in southern Lebanon. They include a suggestion to incorporate Maj Haddad's soldiers in southern Lebanon within Lebanese Army and IDF patrols.

At a news conference in An-Nabatiyah, Haddad turned down this suggestion, saying that only his soldiers can prevent penetration into the 45-km strip in the south. He emphasized that if the IDF departs Lebanon, then it will be his forces that will control the places the IDF vacates.

The security forces are continuing their search for terrorist squads who managed in the last 2 days to plant mines and shoot at IDF vehicles primarily along the Lebanese coastal road.

Reporters who toured An-Nabatiyah were told that it was a few student groups who operated against the IDF soldiers. A Khomeyni-backed student body is active in Lebanon, and it has sent dozens of threatening letters to the inhabitants of southern Lebanon. [end recording]

ARENS ON RETURNING PALESTINE CENTER BOOKS

TA151725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the Cabinet will discuss the possibility of returning the material that the IDF captured at the Palestinian Research Center in Beirut. Responding to a parliamentary question by Amnon Lynn, the defense minister said that the IDF has no interest in keeping books and publications described as research and academic material.

U.S. ENVOY ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, LEBANON WAR

TA151821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1745 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] In the preparatory meetings held before the Jerusalem convention on the Soviet Jewry, which will open today, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis had harsh words to say regarding U.S.-Israeli relations. Avraham Ben Melekh reports:

[Live] Ambassador Lewis met with the U.S. delegation to the convention, a big delegation, in a closed meeting not to be publicized, and among other things said that for about a year the U.S.-Israeli relations had been in a bad way. The problem began when the United States was angry with Israel because of the law to annex the Golan. The reaction of the United States also brought about an escalation of the confrontation between the two countries. The war in Lebanon, said Ambassador Lewis, which only very few countries in the world understood its importance and its need, also brought about strained relations. What added to its escalation was the reaction of the United States which also caused tension.

A great distance and distrust was created, said Sam Lewis, between the leaders. This is a tragic fact in special and unique relations such as the relations between the two countries. But this was temporarily unavoidable.

Samuel Lewis again said that in the last few weeks, there was a certain amount of coming closer which is expressed, or was expressed, in the talks between Shamir and Shultz and slowly things are returning to normal. Samuel Lewis mentioned a very special reason. He said that Israeli public opinion, which did not favor the war, also had an influence on U.S.-Israeli relations. He said that it was the first war which created antagonism in the people and in the army. The events of Sabra and Shatila, in Samuel Lewis' opinion, stepped up the anger in the Israeli public and inadvertantly added to the dispute between the two countries.

Samuel Lewis asked his listeners a rhetorical question: Were the victims of Israel in the war worth it? He said the answer should be left to history. From a political point of view, he added, the reality in Lebanon does not fit with what the Israelis hoped to achieve when they set out to war. The Israeli dreams did not come true, but despite this, there is still support for Begin's policy and the Likud in Israel. According to Samuel Lewis and according to the polls, the Likud is still leading the Alignment. He noted that the United States is holding negotiations for the evacuation of Lebanon. There are gaps, but in his opinion the talks are going well. He promised the members of the delegation that southern Lebanon would not be a threat to the security of Israel. He also noted that there would not be full peace between Israel and Lebanon, but favorable relations of a moderate nature. He expressed pessimism about the Syrians' willingness to withdraw and said that his colleagues in the administration are also very very skeptical about this. The question in the long run is not necessarily Lebanon, but Judaea and Samaria. He also mentioned the U.S. Administration statement in September which angered Israel very much.

ISRAEL, EGYPT HOLD SECOND ROUND OF TALKS

TA160621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Egyptian and Israeli officials have held a second round of talks on how to improve trade relations between the two countries. Both sides declined to say whether progress had been made. An Israeli spokesman said the two sides were working towards overcoming the difficulties facing bilateral trade during the past 9 months.

REPLACEMENTS FOR EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MENTIONED

TA150847 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpt] Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Dr Sa'd Murtada, recalled to Cairo 7 months ago, will soon go on leave, as is the customary practice in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, just before an official terminates his service and retires, which in this case will be in July. To date, no decision has been made to name a substitute for him, although the names of two potential ambassadors have been mentioned. They are: Fawzi al-Barashi, who has played a very active role throughout the talks with Israel; and 'Umar Sirri, who is the head of the manpower department and former ambassador to Bonn.

RADIO REPORTS TWO NEW CHIEF RABBIS ELECTED

TA151724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Rabbis Avraham Shapira and Mordekhay Eliyahu will be Israel's chief rabbis. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that in the elections at Hekhal Shlomo in Jerusalem, Rabbi Shapira got 80 votes, thus defeating his rivals Rabbis Yitzhaq Kolitz and She'ar Yashuv Kohen. Rabbi Mordekhay Eliyahu received 87 votes, defeating his opponent, (Eliyahu Baqshi-Doron).

After the elections, Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg told our correspondent that this was a victory for democracy and that the nation of Israel is bidding farewell to two chief rabbis who served it loyally. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said that he struggled in the Cabinet to prevent the election's postponement in order to ensure the rule of law in the country.

NEW GENERATION OF ISRAELI DRONE TO BE DEVELOPED

TAI10923 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0606 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] It is the Tadiran Company which will develop the tiny drone for the IDF. A committee which included representatives from the Defense Ministry, the Air Force, and the Intelligence Branch preferred the proposal of Tadiran on this issue to that of the Israeli Aircrafts Industry [IAI]. The drone produced by the Tadiran Company is called Mastiff and other, earlier models of this drone were operated during the war in Lebanon. Our military correspondent Hayim Ravya reports:

[Begin recording] The drone in question is going to be a development of the existing Mastiff. It will be an improved type and a fourth generation of the tiny pilotless planes Tadiran has developed since the Yom Kippur war. Currently in production is the third generation of the pilotless plane. The first two models of this plane were used in the Lebanese war next to the Scout of the IAI. The tender which has just ended with preference of the Tadiran proposal has given a new characteristic to the IDF drones: drone l [as heard]. Currently, the IDF and the Intelligence Branch are using two models: those of the Tadiran Company and that of the IAI. The tender was to decide which of them will develop the future plane and this decision definitely has implications for the possibilities of marketing abroad.

The development, which is an improvement and adjustment of the existing model, will extend over a few years. The present Mastiff, according to official publication of Tadiran, may remain 6 hours in the air and carry about 30 kg of cargo: for example, a television camera and a transmitter which transmits on a real time basis the material picked up by the camera. The altitude of flight is 3,050 meters.

Following the Peace for Galilee Operation reports spread about the use Israel made of the drones for disrupting the radar systems of the Syrian missiles. In addition to intelligence needs, the drones are also intended for electronic warfare and other purposes.

The committee which decided the issue included representatives from the Defense Ministry, the IDF, the Air Force, and the intelligence elements. It should be mentioned here that the IAI, about a year ago, charged the Tadiran Company with industrial espionage regarding this tender. Nevertheless, following an investigation, the defense establishment controller stated that this was unfounded.

It should finally be stated that Israel is considered a leader in the production of drones in the world. The production of the future generation of these planes will then put Tadiran at the head of the list of those dealing with this issue. [end recording]

ALGERIA

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER CHEYSSON ARRIVES 14 MAR

LD142302 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Claude Cheysson arrived in Algiers this evening. The French minister of external relations will have a meeting tomorrow morning with his Algerian counterpart, Taleb Ibrahimi. The two men will talk about the results of the nonaligned summit and they will exchange impressions and comments about the final declaration of a contribution by France to the implementation of certain resolutions. North-South cooperation will also be discussed.

Bendjedid Meets With Cheysson

LD151839 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 15 Mar (APS) -- At noon today Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and party secretary general, received French Minister of External Affairs Mr Claude Cheysson in audience in the presence of Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and the ambassadors of both countries.

Cheysson on Talks

LD152255 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson left Algiers early this afternoon after a 24-hour visit to our capital, during which he had talks with his Algerian counterpart Taleb Ibrahimi. Before leaving Mr Cheysson was received by President Chadli Bendjedid.

At his press conference at the airport, the French minister of external relations said his talks with Algerian officials dealt with bilateral relations and the world economic crisis, the results of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit, the Middle East situation and important world topics. Claude Cheysson spoke to our colleague [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] [Cheysson] It was a quick visit but it enabled us to review those problems of common interest. It was possible because our contacts are consistent through your ambassador to Paris, our ambassador to Algiers, and also through the large number of meetings between us. I remind you that my latest meeting with my Algerian colleague goes back 3 months. It is a short interval [words indistinct] and we telephoned each other several times. Other ministers have met, our officials are in constant touch, and we can say that bilateral problems are being dealt with as they occur. We have noticed that on a bilateral level the difficulties are either already dealt with or being dealt with, that matters are underway, and I also notice that the number of projects agreed on between Algeria and France in this last year has been quite considerable, quite exceptional. Thus, things are progressing. And on a bilateral level we discussed several matters and I do not see any difficulty worth mentioning, worth [word indistinct] or concealing. [Pause in which other news items are broadcast. Interview is resumed later in the bulletin]

[Cheysson continues] To speak about international events -- first about the economic crisis, its weight upon various people and, naturally, as every time a crisis occurs, its burden on the weaker people. We French consider that what has been said and concluded within the nonaligned summit represents a very important trend, in my view quite an excellent one.

I am saying, in my view, because I intend to report to the French Cabinet tomorrow and be perfectly sure then that it is also the stand of the French Government. I believe that more in-depth talks should take place between some of those that were in New Delhi, particularly those who played the main role [words indistinct], and some of the industrialized countries which were not in New Delhi and which should better understand the thinking of the nonaligned and consider this thinking more deeply, particularly on the occasion of the industrialized countries summit in Williamsburg, in the United States, which is to take place shortly. It was one of our topics of conversation today, one of the most promising. We also spoke of other things, of those currently facing us in the Middle East: What will the Palestinian people do in the future? Will they exercise their right to self-determination or not? How will occupied Lebanon be released from its occupation and consequently express the sovereignty of its elected bodies throughout the territory?

[Question] The nonaligned summit called for nuclear disarmament. What, Minister, is France's answer to this call?

[Answer] We shall have to examine the statements made at the nonaligned summit more thoroughly. As you know, we are very much in favor of any initiative for nuclear disarmament where it does not represent an element of the balance of power. We are therefore determined to encourage in a systematic manner the denuclearized and peace zones, the "sea of peace," all formulas adopted on this matter, be they in the Indian Ocean, in Latin America. Perhaps one day. Why not one day in the Mediterranean as well? The problem is different where the nuclear element is part of the balance of power and where the disappearance of the nuclear element would result in an imbalance of power. Everyone knows that a lack of balance of power carries the (?maximum risk of war). We French would like war to be impossible and unthinkable. It is on these lines that we are thinking about the problem of the nuclear element where nuclear arms must contribute to a balance of power.

[Question] How do you interpret the results of the recent municipal elections in France?

[Answer] First, I must tell you that I am glad to be reelected. [words indistinct] Second, I am very interested to see that our voters, the voters of the left, after being rather grudging toward us [words indistinct] when they realize that by abstaining and showing their disapp oval they would bring in the right, they rushed as one to the polling stations and there was a redressing of the situation in the second round. [words indistinct] [end recording]

LIBYA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH SURINAME ISSUED 15 MAR

LD152329 Tripoli JANA in English 1903 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, Mar 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The following Libyan-Surinamese joint communique has been issued in Tripoli and Paramaribo today:

At the invitation of the Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st September Revolution, Lt. Colonel Daysi Bouterse, leader of the revolution in Suriname, made an official and friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah between 12-15 March 1983. The guest was given a warm reception that reflected the friendly relations between both peoples by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi leader of the Great 1st Sept Revolution also received Lt. Colonel Bouterse and in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding elaborate talks were held between both sides.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and international issues of common interest especially the situation in the Arab region, Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa.

Reviewing the bilateral relations, both sides expressed determination to work towards closer ties between the Great 1st Sept Revolution and Surinamese revolution and between both friendly peoples. In this respect, both sides have agreed to exchange political relations and promote their economic and trade cooperation. The Surinamese side said it was deeply impressed by the great achievements of the Great 1st of Sept Revolution in the political, economic, social, and ideological sectors due to the third universal theory to this effect. Both sides have agreed to have intensified exchange of ideas and views on the third universal theory to allow the revolution in Suriname to get the maximum benefit from the theory.

Both sides discussed the fierce U.S. imperialist offensive against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In this respect, the Surinamese side condemned the constant U.S. provocations against the Libyan peoples especially the U.S. naval build up opposite to the Libyan coast in the Gulf of Sidra recently and backed the Jamahiriyah's historic right in the Gulf of Sidra being territorial waters. The Surinamese side condemned the U.S. technological and economic embargo against the Jamahiriyah to prevent it carrying out its vanguard role in offering help to the Third World countries which struggle for achieving political and economic sovereignty and pledged full solidarity with the Jamahiriyah.

The Libyan side condemned the plots drawn by neocolonialism and imperialism and in this case Holland forms the spearhead against the people of Suriname in its legitimate struggle for a just society serving its own interests. The Libyan side also condemned the Dutch illegal measure of stopping Suriname aid programme from one side and pledged the solidarity of the Jamahiriyah's people with the friendly people of Suriname and its revolutionary leadership.

Both sides reviewed the explosive situation in the Arab region and stressed that tension in this particular region of the world is due to the continuous occupation of the Arab territories and the expansionist policy of the Zionist enemy. They strongly condemned the U.S.-backed Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the Zionist genocide policies as well as Zionist plans to divide the independent Lebanese state.

Both views were identical when discussing the invasion of Lebanon and said that it opens the door for more Zionist invasions of other Arab territories with the aim of controlling the Arab region and imposing capitulatory settlements. Both sides called for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Lebanese territories and stressed the necessity of observing Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and unity of territories. Both sides pledged their support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Both sides asserted that the Arab unity is the best guarantee against the Zionist expansionist plans. In this respect, Lt. Colonel Daysi Bouterse greeted the efforts of the leader of the Great 1st September Revolution towards achieving the unity and solidarity of the Arab nation on anti-colonialist and progressive bases.

Both sides reviewed the situation in Central America, Caribbean Ocean, and Latin America and strongly condemned the U.S. interference into the internal affairs of the regional countries and its hostile attitude against the aspirations of the regional peoples towards liberation and political, social and economic emancipation.

The two sides denounced the multinational companies for exploiting the regional peoples and their resources and pledged support for the progressive forces against the reactionary forces.

Both sides expressed their full solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada and denounced the constant imperialist threats and provocations against them.

Both sides expressed their support for Argentina in its dispute with Britain over the Malvinas Islands and stressed the Argentine rights to regain sovereignty over these islands. When reviewing the situation in the African Continent, both sides expressed deep concern over the increasing designs and plots drawn by imperialism against the African peoples and which aim at sowing the seeds of rift and division so as to facilitate control of the continent and destabilise those countries adopting anti-colonialist policy in confrontation of imperialist influence in all fields.

In this respect, the two sides asserted the importance of the Organisation of African Unity as significant factor for peace, independence and progress in the continent pointing out to the role played by the O.A.U. against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and Zionism as well as all forms of imperialist pressures and hegemony.

Both sides discussed the situation in southern Africa and condemned the racist repressive policy of Pretoria's regime and pledged support for the struggle of the South African people to abolish racial discrimination and the policy of violence and terrorism. Both sides strongly condemned the armed aggression carried out by the apartheid regime of South Africa against Angola, Lesotho, and Mozambique. The two sides asserted their backing for the struggle of the Namibian people led by SWAPO, their sole legitimate representative and called for the immediate implementation of the U.N. resolutions on Namibia's independence. Both sides reviewed the results of the 7th Non-aligned Summit Conference and stressed the importance of the movement and expressed support for its role to reduce world's tension and consolidate the independence and freedom of the peoples as well as world peace against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and Zionism.

Both sides reviewed the current international issues and expressed deep concern towards the current international situation due to the colonialist practices geared towards escalating arms race, use of force in the international relations, intervention into the internal affairs of the smaller states, deepen the international economic crisis and increase the gap between the rich and poor countries.

In this respect, both sides expressed the necessity of observing the principles of equality among the countries, independence, national sovereignty, non-intervention into the internal affairs, abandoning use of force or threat to use force and a halt to arms race.

Both sides have agreed that it is necessary to strengthen the United Nations to be an effective tool in maintaining world peace and security and achieving full equality among its members by abolishing measures that halt such a development. The two sides called for the need to work towards making the Mediterranean a lake of peace and dismantling military bases in the region. Both sides saw the necessity to put an end to the exploitation of the natural resources and wealth of the developing countries by the monopolies and respect the right of the peoples to control their own resources.

They also put an emphasis on the necessity to re-organise the current international economic relations and set up a new international economic order according to equality and justice.

Suriname Leader Departs 15 Mar

LD152309 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli Jumada Thani 1, Mar 15 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Lt. Colonel Daysi Bouterse, head of the Supreme Council and commander-in-chief of the armed revolutionary forces in Suriname, left Tripoli today ending a visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he had a series of talks on bilateral relations and means of bolstering cooperating between the Jamahiriyah and Suriname peoples in all sectors.

Lt. Colonel Bouteres and his accompanying delegation were seen off at Tripoli international airport by Staff Major Abd as-Salam Jallud and several officers of the armed forces and members of the diplomatic missions in the Jamahiriyah.

U.S. DECISION OF LIBYAN STUDENTS ASSAILED

LD151915 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 15 Mar 83

["JANA political editor comments on President Reagan's decision" -- JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, Mar 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The U.S. president has personally issued an exclusion order preventing Libyan students in the USA from continuing their studies in aviation and nuclear sciences and related subjects.

The decision stipulates that those students must change their studies to other topics and that refusal to do so would result in deportation from the U.S.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that for Libyan students to study in those fields would pose a danger to American security. He added that the administration did not want those students to continue their studies in the maintenance, flight operations, and nuclear science fields.

A spokesman of the U.S. passports and immigration department said that we did not want to enable those students to obtain technical knowledge of any form.

Our political editor commented on this arbitrary decision saying "the U.S. Administration has committed another hostile act against the Libyan people whose revolutionary line opposed to imperialism is angering the terrorist ruling circles in America led by Ronald Reagan, who took this aggressive stand from a venomous, racist and crusading standpoint.

Washington's racist decision to deny the Libyan Arab students their natural right to gain knowledge is the most racist measure taken by a super power claiming to be democratic and to defend human rights. This is an inhuman decision and a terrorist measure taken to deport Libyan students from America.

Thus, the American Administration appears as the rabid beast opposed to human rights to education and gain more knowledge. Through this, it expressed its venom against a people struggling for realising progress and development for their country.

Washington's racist measure is yet another link in the chain of continued aggressive stands against our people. This act has no justification, but is the product of a venomous desire by the U.S. Administration in practicing more provocations against the Libyan Arab people.

It also exposed the ugly American orientation before world public opinion. The U.S. Administration, by taking this racist decision is not only more aggressive towards the Libyan people but also against the Arab nation and the peoples of the world aspiring for a better future and development.

Based on these terrorist acts, the Reagan administration is feverishly trying to move ahead in being an enemy of the Arab nation and increasing its support for the Zionist racist entity. The Reagan administration has never stopped providing this entity with all the information and technical means to enable it to possess nuclear weapons to destroy the Arab nation.

Through this uncivilised conduct, the U.S. Administration has expressed its animosity towards and oppression of Libyan students. It has reaffirmed its vile acts in imposing its domination, practicing monopolistic conduct, and taking fascist measures to prevent the peoples from achieving development and progress. This, so as to become an horrifying foe of the national aspirations of these peoples.

MOROCCO

YASIR 'ARAFAT LEAVES FES AFTER TALKS 15 MAR

LD151358 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the delegation accompanying him left the city of Fes this morning after a short visit to Morocco during which he held talks yesterday with His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the seven-member committee stemming from the Arab Fes summit conference.

'Arafat stated that the talks centered on the results of the Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi and the new Zionist aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Palestinian leader was seen off at Fes-Sais Airport by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, Ahmed Bensoudah, adviser to his majesty the king, Moulay (Mehdi Alawi Almrani), governor of the Fes district, Abu Marwan, PLO representative in Rabat, and several other officials.

TUNISIA

KUNA REPORTS 'ARAFAT'S ARRIVAL IN TUNIS

LD151702 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1526 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, 15 Mar (KUNA) -- Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here this afternoon after a tour of Saudi Arabia and Morocco after the New Delhi nonaligned summit recently.

A responsible Palestinian source told KUNA that 'Arafat will chair a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee on Thursday next when posts would be allocated to its members.

GHANA

12 PERSONS GO ON TRIAL FOR COUP ATTEMPT

AB151345 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Twelve persons appeared before the public tribunal in Accra today on charges in connection with the coup attempt of 23 November last year. They include Kwame Pianim, executive chairman of Management and Investment Consultants Limited; Sergeant Mathew Apwa; Corposal Oliver Akadimah; Corporal Yusifu Tanko; Corporal C.C. Addae; and Lance Corporal Ibrahim Fuseni Bature. The others are Corporal Akpana Abango, Private Abdulai Gamel, Private Joseph Kwaku Baah, Private Joseph Kofi Tawiah, Chief Superintendant J.J. Yugana and Yahaya Seidu, a pharmacist. They have all pleaded not guilty.

Kwame Pianim is being represented by counsel, Mr Edward Pianim. The chairman of the five-member tribunal is Mr Addo Aikins. Twelve of the accused persons are at large. They include Major Seidu Musa, Major Awudu Mahama, Captain Ampomah Nketia, Captain Appiagyei and Lieutenant Kenneth Korah.

The others are Sergeant Iddrisu Malick, Corporal Amagaya Adjomgba, Bombardier Anim, Lance Bombadier Deisi, Lance Bombardier Ahinkora, Lance Corporal Alaria and Private Kanti Adomogire.

Plead Not Guilty

AB151910 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 MAr 83

[Text] The public tribunal today started the trial of 24 persons charged in connection with the 23 November coup attempt against the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC]. Of the 24 charged, 12 appeared and the rest are at large. Those who appeared include Kwame Pianim, executive chairman of Investment Consultants Limited; Sergeant Mathew Arwa; Corporal Oliver Akadimah; Corporal Yusifu Tanko; Corporal Olitus Addae and Lance Corporal Ibrahim Bature. The others are Lance Corporal Akpana Abongo; Private Abdulai Gamel, Private Joseph Kwaku Baah, Private Joseph Kofi Tawiah, Chief Superintendent Jacob Idani, and Yahaya Seidu, a pharmacist. The 12 others who are at large have been asked to appear before the tribunal by the 25th of this month to answer charges against them or be tried in absentia. They include Major Seidu Musa, Major Awudu Mahama, Captain Ampomah Nketia, Captain Appiagyei, Lieutenant Keneth Korah, and Sergeant Idrissu Malick. The others are Corporal Cmangaya Adjomgba, Bombardier Nti Anim, Lance Bombardier William Baisie, Lance Bombardier Thomas Ahenkora, Lance Bombardier Atalia, and Private Adomogire.

Chief Superintendent Idane and Yahaya Seidu are charged with aiding Lt. Korah to leave the country thereby enabling him to avoid arrest.

The special public prosecutor, Mr Amonoo-Monney, said on the 23d of November last year, a military attack was described at the PNDC headquarters at Gondar barracks and at the castle Ous. The attack was meant to overthrow the PNDC and in its place set up a government to be known as the National Reconciliation Council, NRC. Ironically the attack was launched from the former residence of the late Kutu Acheampong with mortar bombs. Mr Amonoo-Monney said evidence will be made to show that the conspiracy involved not only soldiers but also civilians. The prosecutor said Maj Seidu Musa, around whom a lot of planning evolved, held meetings at Madina and in Accra. At the end of one of these meetings, Kwanw Pianim gave 640,000 cedis to Maj Musa for distribution to the soldiers who were to participate in the attack. Mr Amonoo-Monney said part of the plan was to fly in foreign troops to consolidate the new government.

The armed forces were to be confined to barracks and the police to undertake such duties as the blocking of roads and enforcing price laws. In connection with the plot, Maj Seidu Musa travelled to Amsterdam and London with a ticket bought on the credit card of Mr Kwame Pianim. In these foreign lands he met other participants in the plot. Mr Amonoo-Monney said evidence will be made to show that Chief Superintendent Idana gave refuge to Lt Korah after the failure of the plot and later he sent him to the house of Yahaya Seidu who claims to be Lt. Korah's cousin. Lt. Korah was later sent to Aflao as a result of which he evaded lawful arrest.

All the 12 accused persons who appeared pleaded not guilty to their charges. Kwame Pianim is being represented by counsel Mr Edward Pianim. The tribunal, under the presidency of Mr Addo Aikins, asked the attorney general to provide counsel for accused persons who might need them. One of the soldiers asked that should they be tried in their military attire since they are servicemen. The prosecutor assured counsel for Kwame Pianim that he would supply an outline of the evidence available to him. The tribunal will continue hearing the case on the 25th of this month.

NIGERIA

EKWUEME ASKS TOTAL ATTENDANCE AT OAU SUMMIT

AB151756 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Nigeria has called on all African countries to attend the reconvened summit meeting of the OAU which has been scheduled to begin in Addis Ababa. the Ethiopian capital, on 6 June. The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, made the call in Beijing today at a meeting with African diplomatic envoys accredited to China. Dr Ekwueme said no matter the differences member countries might have on the attendance of Chad and the SDAR, the important thing was for such nations to be present at the summit so that the differences could be ironed out. The vice president remarked that the new date for the summit was fixed at a meeting of the 12-nation OAU Contact Committee during the Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi, India. He stated that if this third attempt to convene the summit failed that would be the end of the OAU. Dr Ekwueme assured that Nigeria will attend the summit without preconditions. He noted that in spite of [word indistinct] weakness, the OAU has contributed in no small way in the liberation of the continent. The vice president was of the view that South Africa was able to make incursion into independent neighboring states because of the disunity in the OAU. He urged the African heads of mission in Beijing to do everything in their power to ensure that their countries were represented at the summit.

In their own words, the envoys commended Nigeria for tireless efforts to ensure that the continent was united.

SENEGAL

PARTIES CHALLENGE ELECTION RESULTS IN COURT

AB151500 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Dakar, March 15 (AFP) -- Four Senegalese opposition parties have challenged the results of the February 27 legislative elections in the Supreme Court, sources said here today. The parties contesting the election results out of a total seven which fielded candidates were the Senegalese Democratic Party, People's Democratic Movement, African Independence Party, and the Marxist Democratic Party won eight seats in the election, but leader Abdoulaye Wade ocntested the results and refused to take his place in the National Assembly.

Cheikh Anta Diop, the leader of the National Democratic Rally, who was the only member of his party to win election, also decided not to sit in parliament but has not gone to court to challenge the result.

The four parties have complained of irregularities in general, including disorganised distribution of voting cards and lack of identity checks at polling centres. They also complained of specific abuses, such as problems encountered by opposition delegates when checking voting proceedings and informal announcements of the results by officers in charge of the count. The Supreme Court will rule on the case in the next ten days.

Observers noted that because of the overwhelming majority claimed by the Socialist Party which won more than 79 percent of the vote and 111 seats in the 120-seat parliament, any change would not make any difference to the balance of power.

UPPER VOLTA

PRESIDENT OUEDRAOGO INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH RADIO

AB151529 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Mar 83

["Exclusive interview with Upper Voltan President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo by Edith Coran of Radio France Internationale in Ouagadouguo; date of interview not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, about 2 weeks ago -- on 28 February to be precise -- there were regime of an attempted coup d'etat. This attempt was even officially announced. What really happened?

[Answer] We consider this as one of the convulsive movements which occur in the life of any regime and our regime was not exempted from this rule. It was no more nor less than an attempt made by those who are yearning for the defunct regime. It was a very limited attempt which, as far as we know, concerns only the Army. Only the inquiries will reveal if there were ramifications within the civilian population.

[Question] Does this mean that there are still factions within the Army?

[Answer] These factions are not as important as they would seem. Since our regime is making many people uneasy, it is quite normal for them to take a concrete form because we have the support of the country's silent majority. I think that these reactions will also remain limited. It is true that there will be some manipulations because many interests have now been compromised. But I think this was rather a sort of incomprehension because all our actions are directed toward only one objective: first of all, the restoration of the credibility of the state and, secondly, the restoration of a certain justice now lacking in this country. It is not easy to do this without making some people uneasy.

[Question] What concrete measures do you intend to take to avoid the reoccurence of similar events?

[Answer] We remain vigilant. We also count on the support of the people who know very well that the only ambition of the present regime is to safeguard their interests. We therefore count on the people.

[Question] [Indistinct]

[Answer] I should say that we know one another well within the Army.

We also know the factions to which the various elements belong. Therefore, the problem within the Army is simply one of vigilance. The problem would be much more important should factions become evident within the civilian population which is more difficult to control.

[Question] Does this mean that the political parties could reappear? How would factions become manifest within the civilian population?

[Answer] Presently, the political parties cannot reappear but there is no doubt that there are some political parties working in secret since we have clearly stated that we would withdraw within 2 years. It is therefore quite normal that those who want to succeed us should be preparing already.

[Question] Mr President: The prime minister's first trip abroad was to Niger and Libya. Why Libya?

[Answer] You could first have asked me why Niger? [laughter] He could have gone to Ivory Coast just as he went to Libya. It was simply a matter of agenda. As you know very well, following our coup d'etat Libya sent us many invitations. We received three Libyan missions and we welcomed them as we welcome all missions that arrive here. We exchanged views and explained our country's positions as far as foreign policy and internal and external sovereignty are concerned. Therefore, the prime minister's visit was a sort of routine visit. It was a sort of courtesy. I do not think one should try to attribute other reasons. Some people have been crediting us with certain intentions but the reality is quite simple: Upper Volta is mature and adult and its foreign policy states that we should not allow ourselves to be manipulated by anyone whatsoever.

[Question] What were the cooperation agreements concluded between Libya and Upper Volta during this visit? There has been some talk about military and economic cooperation.

[Answer] These agreements have existed for a long time. As you know, Presidents Lamizana and Saye Zerbo had already visited Libya. Things would have taken quite another turn if I too had visited Libya. This cooperation agreement exists in both the economic and military fields and it has not been unduly strengthened.

[Question] There have also been rumors about a sum of money donated to Upper Volta by Libya to be used to cover part of Upper Volta's budget deficit. Is this true?

[Answer] At the appropriate time we will inform the public about everything that took place. On such occasions, there are always negotiations but we will not talk about the negotiations. We will only give the results of the negotiations. The important thing is that we have not changed our (?policy).

[Question] Was there any spectacular reversal of alliance?

[Answer] Absolutely not! Absolutely not!

[Question] And yet during a dinner, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's (?aides) asked Captain Sankara to establish a Jamahiriyah [socialist people's republic] in Upper Volta. What do you think of this?

[Answer] Our regime is preoccupied with the interests of the people of Upper Volta and we will listen only to the voice of the people of Upper Volta. We have already experimented with imported things. I think we are sufficiently mature to impose the policy within our means -- a realistic policy which will take into account our situation, our neighborhood, our ties of traditional friendship, and particularly our national sovereignty.

[Question] Certain words spoken by the People's Salvation Council could make people believe that -- without going to the extent of establishing a jamahiriyah -- things may take this direction. Is this not true?

[Answer] I do not think so. As I have told you, it is difficult in 2 years to establish such a system in Upper Volta.

PREMIER SANKARA PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO DPRK

For DPRK media accounts of the visit to Pyongyang by a delegation from Upper Volta led by Prime Minister Thomas Sankara see the North Korea section of the 15 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Speaks at Banquet

SK140457 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA) -- Prime Minister Thomas Sankara made a speech at a grand banquet the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song arranged Sunday evening in honor of the delegation of the People's Salvation Council and Government of the Republic of Upper Volta on an official goodwill visit to our country.

Follows the full text of his speech:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Excellencies, Mesdames and Messieurs, First of all I would like to extend Greetings to President Kim Il-song, the leader respected and loved not only by the Korean people but also by all people who recognize him as an experienced leader of the independence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I would like to congratulate you the great strategist, with respect and admiration, on the great victories achieved in the struggle for the country's reunification.

I express again our deep sympathy with the ideal for which you, a great person uniting people, are constantly struggling with conviction and perseverance.

I praise the justness of the Chuche idea, the idea of you, an outstanding politican. The consistent, correct application of this idea has placed Korea today among the dignified and prosperous countries.

The People's Salvation Council leading Upper Volta from November 7, 1982, attaches great importance to my current visit to your beautiful country. This visit is an expression of the desire to strengthen the relations between us. What is more natural than consolidating cooperation between us through friendship visits?

You have invited us to this grand banquet and personally attended it and your people accorded us grandiose and extremely warm welcome which is ample and eloquent proof of the excellent relations between us. The members of the delegation accompanying me and myself have been deeply moved by the kind speech you have just made about us and our country. We heard your speech with deepest attention and have become more convinced that your sincere sentiments clearly show your exceptional solicitude for the Upper Voltese people.

The visit to Korea which we began today has ushered in a new era in strengthening friendship and cooperation between us.

Excellency, the peoples of Upper Volta and Korea have the similar past in which they were subjected to foreign domination. The history of your very beautiful country really teaches us that you led the struggle against the foreign aggressors for over 20 years. You organised and waged the courageous struggle in all parts of the country on the basis of the rights of each nation to have its proper identity and freely hew out its destiny. Infringement upon dignity and subjugation can be tolerated by no people.

Through this struggle you defeated the vicious forces exploiting the Korean nation. You led this struggle to victory, which made Korea take the road of progress with the Chuche idea. You have also wisely led the industrial revolution, agricultural revolution and cultural revolution, which are today bearing fruits. In fact, it is widely known to the world that under your wise leadership the Korean people have accomplished extraordinary progress in all sectors of economic and socialist construction.

The industry of your country is prospering on a high level of development in the world. The agricultural revolution of your country is the basis of considerable growth of agricultural production, because the peasants are benefited by the new methods of cultivation and irrigation. The cultural revolution has also been carried on with success which is beneficial to the entire Korean people.

In your country the cultural benefits do not go only to a few elites to the detriment of the majority of people. In other words, a culture serving people has been created in your country.

Excellency Mr. President and great leader, all these feats performed by you personally will be immortal. The liberation struggle led by you to victory serves as an example for all the oppressed peoples. After all, the struggle against colonialism is permanent, because the imperialists would never disarm themselves of their own accord: They have various faces.

Your people could achieve victory only by placing firm confidence in your revolutionary leadership and adhering to a resolute stand. We are convinced that your people will win an inevitable, total victory in the future.

Mr President and great leader, Upper Volta is particularly interested in the solution of the Korean question, because the Korean question not only holds an important place in the international relations but also is related to the future of a people: the Korean people. The Korean people desire peace because peace alone gives hope for the reunification of the country is the deepest and noblest aspiration of the Korean people. The reunification of the country is indispensable for permitting your country to represent its legitimate place among nations. Reunification is ineluctable because history teaches us that a people fighting for freedom and sovereignty are firmly convinced of victory.

That is why Upper Volta fully supports all the possible initiatives for a proper solution of the reunification question through dialogue and negotiation. Accordingly, we call upon foreign powers which keep their troops stationed in the land of Korea to withdraw their military bases so that the Korean people may freely decide their destiny by themselves.

Excellency Mr President and great leader, honorable guests, the Seventh Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries was held in New Delhi with a success despite all sorts of obstructionist machinations of the imperialists. This is a shining victory. This is a reflection of the will of the member nations to maintain this movement which is an instrument in the struggle for awakening the Third World countries. The Non-Aligned Movement constitutes, without doubt, a great force for all the member nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe which exert great influence on the development of the international relations and the establishment of a new international economic order. The movement also exists as an irresistable trend of our era propelling the world's people to consolidate their independence. In effect, hundreds of millions of African, Asian and Latin American peoples intend to carve out their destinies by themselves; they are courageously turning out to the liberation struggle and to the struggle to free themselves from exploitation.

Since November 7, 1982, the Upper Voltese people, standing on the side of other peoples subjected to domination, have been waging the struggle to fully control the national wealth for national identity, dignity and development of economy which guarantees welfare. The ultimate goal of this can be achieved only by liberating the whole of Africa through restoration of territories still under colonial yoke including Namibia under the old system of apartheid. Apartheid, racism and Zionism are targets to be liquidated by us by every conceivable means and method.

Accordingly, we should wage a final battle together with our brothers dying every day as victims of racism, the disgrace to mankind at present. At the same time, the liquidation of consequences of colonialism and racism necessitates the militant solidarity of all the oppressed countries.

Excellency Mr President and great leader, Upper Volta aspires after peace; it believes that the idea of peace can be realised only when the imperialists cease their impudent exploitation. The situation is grave but never despairing. It is a law that justice always triumphs in the world. The Upper Volta and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should join their hands for fructuous cooperation. We are convinced that active solidarity and the fraternal relations of amity and cooperation will further effloresce in the future.

Our victory in the common combat against imperialism depends on the solidarity of the front to be formed by our developing countries desirous of the wellbeing of the people in the struggle for consolidation of their national unity and against backwardness.

Situated in the Sudan-Sahelienne zone, the Republic of Upper Volta periodically suffers serious natural and climatic disasters caused by long drought and the consequences of these disasters are very serious for rural masses that constitute the great majority of the population. Enclaved by countries, our country depends on neighbouring countries in external exchanges. This is not a negligible handicap in our efforts for development. Under such conditions, it is not surprising that the economic disorder characterising the world today and harmful to the young Third World countries with favourable natural conditions greatly prevents the realisation of our economic objectives.

This is an example sufficiently illustrative of my words that agriculture is a problem of priority for our nation. In fact, in this domain our primary objective is self-sufficiency in aliment. Greater parts of area under cultivation are directed to the cultivation of grains, and the culture for commercial occupation is one-fourth of the cultivable land.

Despite the efforts of the government for large exploitation within the framework of the village committees, agricultural activities proceed within the framework of families or a medium or small scale exploitation.

An acute situation has various reasons. First of all, they are systematic exportation of our population to neighbouring countries by colonial powers for the exploitation for commercial culture needed to them. As a result, the remaining population confines itself to a small family scale exploitation for survival. Precipitation is insufficient and uneven. In the final analysis, very inefficient is the material of agriculture adapted to our land.

Excellency, Our goodwill visit to Pyongyand is, needless to say, to have contact with Korean realities and learn from the accomplishments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under your wise direction in particular. We hail your sagacity and rare clairvoyance. It is a source of inspiration for us, and this is an objective pursued by the People's Salvation Council for the happiness of the Upper Voltese people.

In conclusion, permit me to extend, on behalf of my delegation and myself, profound gratitude for the solicitude accorded us by you since our arrival. We will convey this to the Upper Voltese people and report it to His Excellency Medicine-Commandant Quedraogo Jean-Baptiste, president of the People's Salvation Council, and head of state of Upper Volta.

Mesdames and Messieurs, I propose a toast to the long life, health and happiness of His Excellency Kim Il-song, president and great leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the long life, health and happiness of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the dear leader, to the continued progress and prosperity era, to the profound amity between Upper Volta and Korea, and to the promotion of peace and security in the world.

ANGOLA

UNITA CAPTURE OF CZECHOSLOVAKS CONFIRMED

AB160859 Paris AFP in French 0821 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 16 Mar (AFP) -- The Angolan news agency, ANGOP, confirmed on Wednesday that UNITA (Jonas Savimbi's armed opposition movement) has kidnapped 64 Czechoslovak nationals including women and children. "Armed bands in the pay of Pretoria (reference to UNITA) on 12 March attacked the town of Alto Catumbela, (in Benguela region in the west-central part of Angola), partly destroyed a paper mill," and kidnapped some Czechoslovak technical assistance personnel including members of their families as well as the management of the factory, ANGOP specified.

JORGE CRITICIZES U.S., RSA POLICY ON NAMIBIA

AB151235 Luanda ANGOP in French 1123 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Dakar, 15 Mar (ANGOP) -- In an interview with a Senegalese weekly, AFRIQUE NOUVELLE, Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Paulo Jorge said Angola is guided in its external and internal policies by the invincible theory of Marxism-Leninism. Because of our Marxist-Leninist policy, we maintain special relations with countries which have a similar ideology. But this does not, in any way, prevent us from maintaining normal relations with all other countries of the world on the basis of the principle of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and the noninterference in internal affairs. As an active member of the Nonaligned Movement, we follow an anti-Zionist and anti-racist policy, he stated.

The People's Republic of Angola is a bitter enemy of the apartheid regime and it can never establish diplomatic nor commercial relations with that regime. We will always support the ANC of South Africa in their struggle to achieve power for the black South African majority.

The Angolan foreign minister accused the United States and other powers of the Western contact group of delaying the independence of Namibia. He said because of the resistence of these powers, the UN Council of Namibia, which was created in 1964, could not assume its duties of guiding Namibia to independence. He also condemned Washington and Pretoria's attempts to link the Namibian independence issue with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Such a policy of linking problems which have nothing in common is aimed at deceiving international public opinion in order to delay the independence of Namibia.

Paulo Jorge said the Americans do not want to insist on their withdrawal but we cannot accept that another state imposes its conditions on us before the normalization of bilateral relations [sentence as received]. The presence of Cubans is an Angolan affair and none of America's, Paulo Jorge concluded.

NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT U.S.-RSA TALKS

MB151848 Windhoek Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Representatives of the administrator-general, Dr Willie van Niekerk, will not attend the discussions to be held in Washington between America and South Africa this week on, inter alia, South-West Africa.

Last week Dr Van Niekerk announced that a team from the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information would be holding consultations with American Government officials. A spokesman from the administrator-general's office has said that any further announcements on the talks would be made by the South African Government. A spokesman for the American Government had described the meeting as purely routine, adding that the South-West African settlement issue would be one of the topics for discussion.

SWAPO INFILTRATION UP; SOVIET, ANGOLAN AID CITED

MB160727 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] More SWAPO terrorists are trying to cross the border from Angola into South-West Africa/Namibia in spite of heavy losses suffered during the last few weeks in skirmishes with the South-West Africa Terrority Force. A spokesman for the Territory Force said in Windhoek that there were also indications that the SWAPO terrorists have scattered into small groups in an attempt to divide the attention of the security force. The fact that 203 terrorists had already been shot dead did not mean that the current wave of terrorism had been finally halted. The spokesman said it was clear that the Soviet Union was continuing to resupply SWAPO with brand new equipment thereby discouraging a negotiated settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia. He added that there were clear indications that SWAPO and the Angolan National Army were using the same logistical infrastructure. This meant that the Angolan Government was still supporting SWAPO in spite of the negotiations between the Governments of South Africa and Angola on the South-West Africa/Namibian issue.

It has been announced in Pretoria that a South African soldier has died in a landmine explosion in northern South-West Africa/Namibia, bringing to 15 the number of security force members killed in the present operations against the terrorists.

SWAZILAND

QUEEN REGENT'S ADDRESS DELIVERED 15 MARCH

MB151720 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Her majesty the queen mother and regent, Dzeliwe, today called for unity, if peace and stability is to prevail in the country after the death of the late King Sobhuza II. Addressing chiefs at Lobamba royal residence through the authorized person, Prince Sozisa, this afternoon, her majesty said: If the nation is united and works together as a team, no one can be able to plant a seed of destruction. She told the chiefs not to be misled by what they read in newspapers, but advised them to come to Lobamba to get the truth from her or the authorized person about the affairs of this country. The queen mother also disclosed that the country's general elections will be held at a date yet to be announced. She, however, warned against campaigning, adding that it was un-Swazi. Her majesty said the late King Sobhuza II showed the Swazi people how elections in the Swazi way can be done. Today's meeting was also attended by the prime minister, Prince Mabandla; the deputy prime minister, senator Ben Sibandze; and members of the royal family.

ZIMBABWE

DEPUTY MINISTERS CALL FOR IAN SMITH'S EXPULSION

MB160643 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The deputy minister of local government and town planning, Comrade George Chinengundu, has called on Parliament to expel the Republican Front [RF] leader, Mr Ian Smith, from the House of Assembly.

He was speaking in the Senate yesterday during a debate on a motion calling on the House to deplore deliberate efforts by the RF leader to discredit Zimbabwe.

Comrade Chinegundu said Mr Smith had refuted the oath of loyalty and allegiance to the state by making subversive statements while in the United Kingdom and the United States. He said it is unthinkable that such a person should remain in the Parliament of Zimbabwe when he had declared himself a Rhodesian.

Contributing to the debate, the deputy minister of rural housing, Comrade Chivende, said Mr Smith committee treason by betraying his own nation to the outside world.

The Senate also adopted a motion supporting government measures to eliminate banditry in Matebeleland. The motion was an amendment to one from the Republican Front which called for a long term political solution for the Matebele people. The leader of the Senate, Senator Culverwell, attacked the RF for trying to cause a division among the various racial and ethnic groups in the country. Later, Comrade Chinegundu denied that security forces are launching a repressive campaign against the Ndebeles. He stressed that all Zimbabweans are treated equally, irrespective of their ethnic origin or geographical area.

The amended motion condemned those who give support to bandits and said government measures to tackle the problem are in keeping with the policy of race conciliation.

NKOMO'S WIFE SAYS DAUGHTER RELEASED 14 MARCH

MB161042 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] In Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's daughter has been released from detention. Nkomo's wife, Johanna, says today her daughter, Thandiwe Ndhlovu, was released from police custody on Monday. She says her son (Sebikilizwe) [name as heard], Thandiwe's husband, John, and other members of the Nkomo household are still being held. All have apparently been questioned on suspicion that they helped the ZAPU leader flee Zimbabwe on Tuesday last week. Nkomo's wife was released from detention last week.

DIPLOMATIC MOVES SURROUNDING NKOMO REPORTED

LD141103 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0930 GMT 14 Mar 83

[By Paul Harris, PA staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Zimbabwe fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo was keeping a low profile today after his arrival in Britain yesterday. Mr Nkomo, who flew in from Johannesburg yesterday, has been granted a week's stay in Britain. It is not known if he intends to apply for an extenstion.

Meanwhile, government ministers were today considering whether Britain can make any moves to bring about a reconciliation between Mr Nkoko and Zimbabwe prime minister Mr Robert Mugabe, writes Tom McMullan, PA diplomatic correspondent. It was expected that Britain's high commissioner in Harare, Mr Robin Byatt, would be involved in detailed discussions with the Zimbabwe Government.

Ministers have already indicated they are not enthusiastic about Mr Nkomo's presence in London. Unless the issue is handled carefully, Britain's relations with Zimbabwe could be damaged. President Kaunda of Zambia, who is due to make a state visit to Britain next week, might be consulted about the possibility of a reconciliation. Some observers feel the gap between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo is so wide that reconciliation will not be brought about quickly.

But Britain could point out to Zimbabwe that the country's economic prospects will not be helped if there are suggestions of instability.

MINISTER REPORTS ZAPU MEMBERSHIP DEFECTIONS

MB141920 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of national supplies, Comrade Nkala, says ZAPU's political stronghold in Matabeleland Province is crumbling. Comrade Nkala says the people in the (Rwangi, Bete, Beria, Jambezi) and (Lukosi) Districts in Matabeleland North have asked to be disassociated from anti-government activities. He says they have expressed their determination to support the government, Comrade Mugabe and ZANU-PF.

Last weekend Comrade Nkala led a three-man ministerial team which addressed rallies in the area. The minister said more than 2,000 people in the area have defected from ZAPU to ZANU-PF in the past (?few days). He stressed that [words indistinct] the situation in Matabeleland is [words indistinct]. Comrade Nkala pointed out that the people in Matabeleland are not concerned about ZAPU but about the provision of foods, clinics, hospitals, roads, and [words indistinct].

SENATE COMMENDS ARMY ACTIONS IN MATABELELAND

AB151919 Paris AFP in English 1903 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 15 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's Senate today passed a motion expressing its "full support" for the actions by the government security forces in Matabeleland, where the Army has been blamed by church and international aid organizations for killing more than 1,000 civilians since mid-January. The Senate debated a motion which expressed "grave concern" at the situation in the southwest and called on Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government to change its policies to solve the dissident problem in the southwest. But members of Mr Mugabe's majority ZANU Party amended the motion so that instead it commended the Army for its actions. Mr Mugabe had been expected to attend the Senate today but he did not appear for the discussion of the problems in the southwest, caused by anti-government dissidents and the Army harsh reprisals against the local population.

The original motion, made by Senator Mark Partridge, of Ian Smith's white Republican Front Party, called on the government to stop using military force and instead use political means to solve the dissident problem caused by dissatisfied followers of fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo. The motion also called on the government "to recognize the need for a long term political solution for the Matabeleland people", the country's 20 percent minority of Ndebele-speaking people in Matabeleland who generally support Mr Nkomo's opposition party.

Senator Partridge expressed disappointment that his motion was amended so that no change in government policy was encouraged. "Today the opportunity was there for a statement-like approach which would have healed division and would have been part of the prime minister's reconciliation policies," Mr Partridge said. "Instead we've had a dog's breakfast of a debate...it seems the government is not prepared to consider criticism or change to its policy in Matabeleland. In time they will come to it, but how many people will have died?" he went on.

Another RF senator, Terence Oatt, condemned the tribal division in Zimbabwe between the majority Shona-speaking people and the Ndebele-speaking people which the Matabeleland problem has brought to a head. He suggested that the predominantly Shona Fifth Brigade, which is blamed for the atrocities, whould be withdrawn from Matabeleland and replaced by loyal government Army and police.